

Reagan seeks \$100m new contra aid

WASHINGTON (R)—President Ronald Reagan will ask the U.S. Congress to provide some \$100 million in new aid to the rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government, despite the Iran arms scandal, Federal Budget Director James Miller said Friday. "We will not abandon the contra," Mr. Miller said in a television interview when asked if aid to the rebels would be cut off by the scandal. The House of Representatives approved \$100 million of aid to the rebels last year and Mr. Miller said, "We will be asking for something in that range this year." Both houses of Congress and a court-appointed special investigator are launching probes of U.S. arms sales to Iran and the diversion of proceeds to the contra. Mr. Reagan is to send his 1988 financial year budget to Congress on Monday, starting the process of negotiations with the legislative branch on government spending. The New York Times newspaper, citing confidential documents, reported Friday that Mr. Reagan would propose an overall budget of \$1,024.3 billion, with a deficit of \$107.8 billion.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تأسست من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Israelis close Al Najah University

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies)—The Israeli army on Friday ordered a one-week closure of the largest Palestinian university in the occupied West Bank, a military spokesman said. The closure of Al Najah University of Nablus was ordered because of information about planned student protests, Israel Television reported. At the same time the occupation authorities allowed the re-opening of Birzeit University near Ramallah which was closed Dec. 8 after several days of student clashes with Israeli troops. On Thursday, Israeli troops fired rubber bullets at Palestinian protesters during clashes marking the 22nd anniversary of the founding of the mainstream Fatah branch of the PLO. An Israeli spokeswoman said soldiers also clamped a curfew on the Balata refugee camp after shooting to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing Palestinians. There were no reported injuries. Protesters also stoned troops in Nablus, and soldiers blocked off Al Najah University, said the Palestine Press Service.

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Jordan, Egypt to begin work on power connection

AMMAN (J.T.)—A delegation from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will leave for Cairo in mid-January to start implementing a project to connect the national power grids of Jordan and Egypt, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib announced Friday. Dr. Khatib said a memo of understanding had already been signed between Jordan and Egypt for the power connection through a high voltage network. The network will stretch from Cairo to Sinai via the Gulf of Aqaba until the Aqaba Thermal Power Station (ATPS), he said.

Stock market registers increase

AMMAN (J.T.)—The volume of trade at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) registered an increase of 15.7 per cent in 1986 compared to 1985, AMF Director General Hashem Al Sabbagh announced Friday. Mr. Sabbagh added that the number of shares traded in 1985 increased by 31.2 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1985.

Dome of the Rock project announced

AMMAN (J.T.)—The committee for reconstructing the Dome of the Rock will shortly start implementation of a JD 2 million project for the restoration of the holy site. Mr. Ra'ed Nijazi, member of the committee, said implementation of the project would take three years and that four international tenders would be floated for the project. He said the government had donated JD 1,175,000 for the project while the Amman Chamber of Commerce donated JD 150,000.

Garang calls for peaceful solution

NAIROBI (R)—Sudanese rebel leader John Garang said in a broadcast Friday his Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) wanted a peaceful solution of the three-year civil war in his country. "We are still committed to peace... we do not choose war but it is imposed on us by the belligerent attitude of the sectarian rulers who have for the last 30 years refused to listen to the voices of reason," he said in a new year message on Radio SPLA, monitored in Nairobi.

ETA bombings feared in Spanish resorts

MADRID (R)—Basque separatists set off two small bombs in a skiing hotel near Madrid on Friday and government officials said they feared more attacks in the guerrillas' campaign against Spanish winter sports resorts. The attack on the Veneta Aries hotel in Navacerrada, 60 kilometres north of Madrid, followed a blast on Monday at a hotel in the Catalan ski resort of Baqueira-Beret, where King Juan Carlos and his family are on holiday.

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Saudi crown prince strikes positive note over settling 'superficial' Arab rifts

Abdullah sees 'some Arabs' colluding with Israel in Lebanon's 'camps war'

RABAT (Agencies)—Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz struck a positive note on Friday over settling inter-Arab differences which he described as superficial.

Prince Abdullah, ending an official three-day visit to Morocco, said he was not pessimistic about the Arab world's apparent disunity and disarray and noted as a positive element "the end of the headlong race towards materialism and the blessed return to traditional values."

"What we are witnessing within the Arab Nation are just superficial differences which appear each time there is a return to traditional values, a revival of a nation," Prince Abdullah told the Moroccan News Agency (MAP). "The present differences are thus marginal differences since there is not one single essential issue over which there is no converging views among Arab heads of state. The objectives are rather the same," he said.

Amal-Palestinian fighting drags on despite truce call and bad weather

BEIRUT (R)—Thunderstorms and calls for a ceasefire failed to prevent exchanges of rocket and machinegun fire on Friday in Lebanon's continuing "camps war."

Explosions and bursts of shooting were heard from Beirut's Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh Palestinian camps as driving rain and icy winds swept the city. Witnesses said heavily-armed Shi'ite Amal militiamen and their forces were still dug in around the shell-shattered camps despite calls for a new year ceasefire.

At least 700 people have died in the battle for control of five Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon over the past three months. Amal chief Nabih Berri ordered a truce last Monday, and his announcement was backed by a similar call from the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF).

Manila rejects 2 main rebel demands

MANILA (AP)—President Corason Aquino's government on Friday rejected rebel demands for a transitional coalition government, calling the proposal "unfounded and illogical."

The government also rejected demands to cancel the agreement allowing U.S. military bases in the Philippines and to integrate the New People's Army (NPA) into the country's armed forces once a peace settlement is concluded.

The rejection of the rebel demands was contained in a letter to the National Democratic Front (NDF) released at a news conference by chief government negotiator Teodoro Guingona following a two-hour meeting with Mrs. Aquino and military leaders.

The NDF and government negotiators agreed Dec. 23 to exchange comments on their respective proposals by Jan. 3. The plan to meet again on Jan. 6 to begin talks on "substantive issues" aimed at ending the 18-year-old insurgency.

"This government got its mandate through people's power," the letter said referring to the February revolt that ousted ex-President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

"This government will continue that unfinished revolution, to recover from the depths of crisis and to take the necessary steps to right the wrongs of the past," the letter said.

However, Prince Abdullah also suggested that some Arabs could be colluding with Israel in a three-month "camps war" in Lebanon.

He said the Palestinian cause was more an issue of national identity than a territorial question. "If some believe that recovering territories implies the extermination of the Palestinian people, then one has to admit that it is not only an approach which meets Israel's objectives, but rather the result of an accord," he said.

"Otherwise how can you explain the coincidence of Israel's land and air attacks against Palestinian camps and the shelling of these same camps in Beirut and Rashidiyah?"

Prince Abdullah said he wondered: "Is this the result of

converging aims or an agreement?"

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has accused Syria of direct involvement with the Shi'ite Amal militia in the bitter fighting around Palestinian refugee camps.

The prince who was due to meet King Hassan later Friday, said the Saudi-Morocco relationship had reached the stage of a "community of views and communion of ideas and feelings, the stage of cooperation and solidarity in happy and unhappy events."

He deplored the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and said Saudi Arabia would make all efforts to strengthen Islamic solidarity ahead of the Islamic summit in Kuwait later this month.

He said Saudi Arabia would implement "with fidelity and precision" the agreement reached by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Geneva last month.

OPEC agreed to return to a fixed-price structure for oil from next Feb. 1, with the reference price fixed at \$18 a barrel.

But a Palestinian spokesman told Reuters: "On the ground there is no ceasefire and if heavy fighting has eased off slightly today, it is because of bad weather."

He said three people died and 19 were wounded over the previous 24 hours around the two Beirut shantytowns, bringing the number of people killed since Mr. Berri's truce call to 10.

Syrian, Libyan and Iranian officials have all mediated peace plans for the camps, but none has so far taken hold. Mr. Berri said the ceasefire he had ordered would allow emergency food and medical supplies to enter the besieged camp of Rashidiyah, near the southern port of Tyre.

But both Amal and Palestinian sources said no supplies reached the camp on Thursday.

Amal fighters sealed off

Rashidiyah, which holds about 22,000 Palestinian refugees, last Sept. 30.

Palestinians there have reported shortages of drinking water as well as fresh food. Amal fighters have previously said the Palestinians must hand over their weapons before the siege can be lifted.

Syria and its Amal ally accuse Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of trying to turn the camps into new military strongholds for his fighters, most of whom evacuated Beirut in the wake of the 1982 Israeli invasion.

Mr. Arafat told the Saudi Arabian daily As Sharq Al Awsat on Thursday that 80,000 refugees had been driven from the camps by the fighting. He said the clashes were a bid to force Palestinians out of their homes and "to implement plans for a substitute homeland for them."

Rabin: Murphy aims to repair damage caused by Iran deal

TEL AVIV (Agencies)—Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he doubted the planned Middle East visit by U.S. envoy Richard Murphy would achieve any movement in stalemated peace efforts in the region, Israeli newspapers reported Friday.

Mr. Rabin, addressing a closed-door meeting of political reporters, was quoted as saying next week's shuttle by the assistant secretary of state was designed primarily to repair the damage caused by the American arms sales to Iran.

"If there were a real chance for a political breakthrough, we would see (Secretary of State) George Shultz here," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying by the Haaretz daily.

Israel does not believe Mr. Murphy's talks in the region can budge peace efforts because Arab leaders would not make any move before hearing the decisions of the Islamic summit scheduled to convene in Kuwait Jan. 26, Israel Radio reported.

The daily Al Hamishmar quoted unidentified Israeli officials as saying Mr. Murphy was trying to show support for Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, who is expected to seek wider Arab backing at the Islamic summit for renewed peace efforts.

One official said Mr. Mubarak was likely to announce a global Arab peace strategy, the newspaper reported.

In Washington, Phyllis Oakley, State Department deputy spokeswoman, said Tuesday that Mr. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South

Asian affairs, would visit Egypt, Israel and Jordan in January, but she cautioned against expecting any "dramatic breakthrough" in the Middle East peace process.

"After consultation with Secretary Shultz, the president decided that it would be useful for Assistant Secretary Murphy to travel to the Middle East next month to assess the current situation in the region, including where we are in the peace process, and to review bilateral issues in Egypt, Israel and Jordan," she said.

Mr. Murphy has visited the area a number of times in recent years to review developments in peace efforts and to discuss bilateral issues with leaders in the region. As is normal practice, the deputy spokeswoman said she would not release dates for Mr. Murphy's visit.

She emphasised that Mr. Murphy will not be taking a new peace initiative with him. "The peace process continues to be important for the United States and in the region, although a formula for negotiations has not yet been found," Oakley said. "We remain engaged in the process and the leaders of the countries Mr. Murphy will visit are also strongly committed to pursue the search for peace."

"We have always said we would be helpful where we could, but because the issues are complex, we cannot realistically expect dramatic breakthroughs any time soon," she said. "There has been some movement over the past year and we feel it is important to maintain high-level dialogue."

15 SLA men said killed in resistance attack in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies)—Pro-Iranian Lebanese fighters attacked an outpost of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) Friday, killing 15 fighters, the Islamic Resistance Movement (IRM) said.

It said two attackers were also killed when their fighters stormed a position manned by Israeli troops and the SLA in the village of Baraashite.

An Israeli army spokesman in Tel Aviv denied any knowledge of any Israeli casualties.

SLA headquarters in the southern Lebanese town of Marjayoun said six SLA fighters were killed and two wounded in a pre-dawn attack.

Contacted by telephone by Reuters Tel Aviv bureau, an SLA spokesman said the raid, on SLA positions in Baraashite, was carried out by dozens of commandos although the spokesman said it was not so far clear to which organisation the attackers belonged.

Security sources in the coastal city of Tyre said the pro-Iranian Hizbollah party was responsible. A Hizbollah official said 50 SLA men and two Hizbollah fighters died in the fighting at Baraashite. No immediate confirmation of casualty figures was available.

Baraashite lies in the Israeli-declared "security zone" some 15 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

The Islamic Resistance Movement said its fighters "killed all 15 enemy elements in the Baraashite position, blew up an enemy tank and four other vehicles and captured an armoured personnel carrier."

The IRM lost two Mujahideen in the operation, the statement added.

The IRM groups the Iranian-backed Hizbollah and other Islamic factions who regularly mount operations against Israel and the SLA in South Lebanon.

IRM fighters drove through several South Lebanon villages in an armoured personnel carrier, claiming they had captured it in the Baraashite assault.

The SLA-run Voice of Hope radio charged that the attackers "infiltrated into Baraashite through U.N.-policed territory."

Spokesmen for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) could not be reached for comment.

The nine-nation 5,800-strong UNIFIL mans a narrow buffer separating SLA-controlled territory from the predominantly Shi'ite sector of South Lebanon.

Reporters who visited the scene of the pre-dawn attack said Hizbollah fighters in captured SLA positions at Baraashite. The guerrillas later withdrew.

Israel says it withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon in June, 1985, but several hundred of its troops and security men back the mainly Christian SLA in the border strip.

Pope John Paul II has declared

51-member Greater Amman Municipal Council is formed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN—A newly-appointed member of the Greater Amman Municipal Council hailed on Friday the creation of the council as a positive step towards offering comprehensive services to Amman and the neighbouring municipalities provided the council remained decentralised.

Jasfar Toukan, an architect, one of the 51 members of the council which was formed Thursday, told the Jordan Times that the council's present and future work "will depend on the extent of decentralisation."

The council, whose formation has drawn mixed reaction from the concerned heads of municipalities which were grouped under the new council, will help in implementing development projects in the concerned areas and will avoid duplicity of work, said Mr. Toukan.

Mr. Toukan said he had not received official notification when the council would hold its first meeting.

The four-year term council groups 14 municipalities and 11 villages around Amman. It was formed after Parliament endorsed the necessary amendments to the Municipal Law of 1978.

Heads of the municipalities which are now members of the new council have opposed the formation of the body saying that such a step would decrease the municipalities' revenues and would lower the quality of public services as well as prolong the time involved in carrying out projects.

Supporters of the council—mainly Amman Municipality and a number of Cabinet officials—say that the new council will alleviate the duplication of work among the concerned municipalities and Amman Municipality will unify all planning and services schemes.

Endorsing the necessary legislative amendments, Parliament cited the rapid population explosion in Amman and spread of unplanned urbanisation which rendered the offering of public services and planning for urban schemes

difficult to achieve as the main reasons that warranted the formation of the Greater Amman Municipal Council.

The council will undergo two transitional stages before the process is completed.

The first stage started with the formation of the 51-seat council. Over the next four years the Amman Municipal Council and member municipalities will be dissolved and lands will be allotted in accordance with population and size.

The second stage entails the transformation of the Amman Municipality area and the new areas into municipalities where the citizens will elect their own municipal councils. Later a council for the Greater Amman area will be formed including all the municipalities and the heads of planning and services departments in the government.

The 51-seat council formed on Thursday includes present and former senior government officials, heads of municipalities and villages, notables and private sector representatives. It is chaired by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh.

The other members are: Mr. Kamal Al Dajani, former minister from the Jerusalem area, Mr. Ismail Al Armouti, undersecretary at Amman Municipality, Dr. Mowafiq Al Fawaz, former tourism minister, Mr. Ra'ef Najem, former public works minister, Mr. Zuhair Khoury, chairman of the Housing Bank, Amman Governor Toukan Hindawi, the director general of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), the director general of the Housing Corporation, the director general of the Land and Survey Department, the director general of the Water Authority of Jordan, the director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority, the director general of the Amman Police Department, the director general of the Youth Welfare Association, the Amman prosecutor general, the undersecretaries at the ministries of education, municipal and rural affairs and the environment, planning and public

works, Mr. Mawloud Abdul Kader, a former senior government employee, Mr. Rattab Al Wazani, former member of the Amman Municipal Council, Mr. Khaldoon Abu Hassan, engineer, Dr. Mohammad Al Jamal, a physician, Mr. Hammad Abu Jamous, a representative of the Daajeh bedouins, Mr. Hani Haj Hassan, member of the Amman Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Mr. Zuhair Asfour, a businessman, Mr. Wasel Bisharat, a businessman, Dr. Mohammad Al Uran, a notable from Tafleh Governorate, Mr. Mifleh Al Lawzi, a notable from the Jubeiha area, Mr. Hussein Sobar, head of the Wadi Al Seer Municipal Council, Mr. Ahmad Fayyad Al Asaf, head of the Tla'a Al Ali municipality, Mr. Anwar Al Hadid, head of the Juweideh and Qhwasmeih municipality, Mr. Ali Salem Al Shihab, head of Tareeq municipality, Mr. Abdullah Al Hilal, head of Umm Al Qasr Al Muqabeil municipality, Mr. Ali Odeh Al Abbadi, a representative of the Abbadi bedouins, Mr. Awad Farhan Al Nusairat, head of Umm Al Summak municipality, Mr. Mahmoud Ibrahim Al Housaiti, member of the Umm Alanda Municipal Council, Mr. Ali Abu El Ragheb, president of the Jordan Contractors Association, Mr. Mousa Bino, a representative of the Suwaleh shishan, Mr. Abdulghanni Abu Qourah, businessman and contractor, Mr. Atallah Abtan Al Gharir, a notable from Umm Al Qussair and Al Muqabeil municipality, Mr. Adel Al Qimeh, a representative of the capital's refugee camps, Mr. Jasfar Toukan, Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, Dr. Adam Al Abdullah, general practitioner, Mr. Mahmoud Al Sa'idi, a Palestinian notable, Mr. Sulaiman Al Uddwan, a representative of the Uddwan bedouins, Mr. Abdul Latif Al Izzeh, a Palestinian notable from the Wihdat refugee camp, Mr. Bandar Al Tabbaa, a businessman, and Dr. Na'el Kheir, a physician.

O'Connor meets Arabs in W. Bank, urges Israeli leaders to change stand

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (Agencies)—New York Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor mixed politics and religion Friday, appealing to Israel's leaders to meet with him, talking to Palestinians about their rights and celebrating mass at the site where Jesus was born.

Cardinal O'Connor urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to change their minds about insisting on meeting with him only in their Jerusalem offices.

"I hope to meet with those gentlemen. I would be very grateful for an opportunity to meet with them in some situation in which I would not be violating my trust," he told reporters in Jerusalem.

Cardinal O'Connor is banned by Vatican protocol from meeting Israeli officials in Jerusalem because such a move would imply recognition of Israeli occupation over the Holy City.

Pope John Paul II has declared

that Jerusalem "is sacred patrimony" for Christians and Muslims, as well as Jews, and that the city should be under international control.

Spokesman for Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir have said the two men would only meet with Cardinal O'Connor in their offices according to the schedule drawn up before the cardinal was obliged to scrap the meetings under pressure from Rome.

In a "gesture of respect" for Israel, Cardinal O'Connor prayed for the Jewish victims of the "Nazi Holocaust" and voiced support for the Jewish state.

Cardinal O'Connor, who has been scrupulously fair in voicing his support for both Israel and the Palestinians since starting his tour of the area six days ago, met later in the day with Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank.

"I was very much impressed with his declarations. I'm greatly impressed with what he is saying about the rights of Palestinians, and that Palestinians shouldn't be

denied the sacred rights of all people." Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij told AP after his private meeting with Cardinal O'Connor.

Cardinal O'Connor has raised the issue of Palestinian rights in each of the three sermons he preached since arriving here Thursday from the East Bank.

He also met with two other Palestinian mayors from the West Bank.

The cardinal on Thursday left Amman to cross the Jordan River at the end of a five-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and senior officials and clergymen.

His talks in Amman covered the latest developments of the Palestinian problem as well as continued efforts towards a comprehensive settlement to the Middle East conflict, the Jordan News Agency, Petra reported.

Reagan returns to face challenges after holidays

PALM SPRINGS, California (Agencies)—President Ronald Reagan was to end his six-day new year's holiday on Friday, returning to Washington to face a host of personal challenges and a major controversy over the Iran arms affair.

While Mr. Reagan took a break in California, the White House managed temporarily to put aside the crisis over secret U.S. arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to American-backed rebels in Nicaragua.

Special committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as a court-appointed special investigator begin their probes of the affair in earnest next week.

Mr. Reagan has appointed retiring NATO Ambassador David Abshire to coordinate White House responses to the various inquiries in the hope that

this will free other staff members from the distraction of the scandal so that they can get on with the regular business of running the nation.

Through his choice of Frank Carucci as his new national security adviser, Mr. Reagan also has put in place a revamped National Security Council (NSC).

Mr. Carucci, who took up his post Friday, succeeds John Poindexter, who resigned after the Iran scandal was revealed.

Oliver North, the alleged mastermind of the Iran-contra scheme, was fired from his post as an NSC aide on Nov. 25.

Mr. Reagan has spent the past four days relaxing at the secluded desert estate of millionaire publisher Walter Annenberg while his aides have tried to convince reporters his administration is running smoothly.

Iran arms scandal.

Speakes has firmly refused comment on the CIA director's condition, saying he was observing the Casey family's wishes.

Mr. Reagan himself enters Bethesda naval medical centre on Sunday and will undergo prostate surgery the following day. He will also be checked for recurrence of the colon cancer he experienced in 1985.

Speakes said the 75-year old president was expected to remain in hospital for three or four days.

Hague talks adjourn

The Los Angeles Times reported meanwhile that Mitchell E. Daniels, who clashed with White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan over his handling of the Iranian arms-and-hostages scandal, plans to resign soon.

Chad troops reportedly storm Libyan stronghold

Northern oasis captured from Libyans

N'DJAMENA (R) — A Libyan stronghold in north eastern Chad was captured Friday after a dawn attack by government troops, reliable sources said, and Chad Radio reported fighting of "incredible violence."

The sources said President Hissene Habre's troops had battled their way into the oasis town of Fada and hand-to-hand fighting now raged in some streets.

It confirmed, the capture of Fada could open the way for a push on Faya-Largeau, Libya's largest base in the northern part of Chad it has occupied for the past three years, diplomats said.

The reported fighting at Fada, 200 kilometres north of a major government base at Oum Chalouba, appeared to signal the opening of a second front in Mr. Habre's bid to recapture the north.

The Fada report came only hours after Chad said its troops had helped recapture the oasis town of Zouar, in the north western Tibesti Mountain range, after two days of heavy fighting against Libyan forces which seized it last Sunday.

Chadian radio broke into a programme of martial music to broadcast its brief statement on the fighting at Fada.

France, which has 1,200 men stationed in the government-controlled part of the embattled country, has a large base at Kalait, Oum Chalouba's twin city.

The French government has repeatedly stated it would not

send its troops or warplanes north of the 16th parallel which has split the vast, semi-desert nation into two since a previous Libyan onslaught three years ago.

It also warned Mr. Habre against trying to reconquer the north but the Chadian government acknowledged two days ago that its troops were present in the remote Tibesti area where they had helped recapture Zouar.

A column of Mr. Habre's troops left N'Djamena 10 days ago to join forces with rebels loyal to Goukouni Oueddei, formerly foe of Mr. Habre and allies of Libya but now siding with the government in the 20-year-old war's latest political and military twist.

Friday's brief statement gave no details on the situation at Zouar which Chadian radio said Thursday night was being pounded by Libyan artillery and aircraft.

Zouar straddles the road leading to Faya-Largeau and Fada.

In Addis Ababa, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) announced that its secretary-general, Ide Oumarou, left Ethiopia Friday on a peace mission to Libya and Chad.

Mr. Oumarou will hold talks

with government leaders in Tripoli and N'Djamena "on the tense situation between the two OAU member states," it added.

The OAU leader, in his New Year message this week, called for an immediate end to the fighting in Chad.

Egypt Friday voiced concern over the current heavy fighting in Chad and reaffirmed its support for the government of President Hissene Habre against Libya.

Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told newsmen: "Egypt is closely following developments in Chad with concern and supports President Hissene Habre in his struggle for the national unity of Chad."

The U.S. State Department Wednesday accused Libya of brutal military assaults in Chad. President Reagan this month ordered \$15 million worth of military equipment to be rushed to the African country to help it repel attacks by Libyan forces that have occupied northern areas since 1981.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Libya "has escalated its violence with a series of brutal air, armour and infantry assaults against Chad towns and positions" in the Tibesti region in the north west of the country.

Oakley pointed out that the United States was not involved in the military operations and had little ability to confirm details of the military situation independently.

Violence in Lebanon claims 2,668 lives in 1986

BEIRUT (R) — More than 2,600 people were killed in Lebanon during 1986, the country's 12th year of civil war, political stalemate and foreign attacks.

Police, hospital and political sources put the death toll at 2,668, 37 per cent lower than the 1985 total of 3,675.

They reported 280 deaths last month — most of them Palestinian commandos, Shi'ite Muslim fighters and civilians caught up in a three-month "camps war" in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Foreigners killed in Lebanon included two Britons, Philip Padfield and Leigh Douglas, and a U.S. citizen, Peter Kilburn. All three had been kidnapped and their bodies were found on April 17, two days after U.S. air raids on Libya.

A French military attaché, Col. Christian Goutierre, was shot dead in Beirut in September and a Libyan diplomat was shot by unidentified gunmen in eastern Lebanon last month.

A French observer monitoring clashes on Beirut's sectarian divide was killed by a sniper's bullet and 13 soldiers serving with the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were killed during the year.

The sources said 276 people were killed in air or ground attacks by Israeli armed forces against their Lebanese militia allies in various parts of the country.

Lebanese guerrillas killed eight Israelis and 78 pro-Israeli militiamen in the South.

Car bombs killed 152 people and other explosive devices accounted for 33 lives. Thirteen people were killed by Muslim militias for alleged involvement in car bomb attacks.

The sources said 880 people, many of them civilians, died in intermittent fighting around five Palestinian refugee camps during summer and autumn.

In January, battles between rival members of the Falangist "Lebanese Forces" militia killed 220 people in east Beirut. The inter-Falangist conflict resurfaced in September and 69 people were reported to have died in the street battles.

Battles across Beirut's "green line" killed 128 people and a further 148 died in Falangist-opposition clashes in the mountains east of the city.

In the northern part of Tripoli, 30 people were reported killed when Syrian troops battled Sunni fundamentalists.

Eighteen died in feuding between the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party and local Sunni fighters in hills south east of Beirut in April and 27 people were killed in June when Shi'ite and Sunni militiamen fought in Beirut.

Twenty-two people, including two senior army officers, died in political murders and six Lebanese Jews were reported "executed" by Muslim militants.

Egyptian general calls Iran's military plans 'stupid'

BAGHDAD (R) — A former Egyptian Defence Minister blamed "stupid military planning" for the failure of an Iranian ground offensive against Iraq last week.

But Gen. Mohammad Fawzi, writing in Friday's issue of Al Thawra, newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party, predicted the Iraqis would continue such attacks despite huge losses.

"The very heavy losses will not push the Iranian regime into accepting peace appeals because it still believes in the advantage of population superiority," the general said.

Iran has almost 60 million people, against an estimated 20 million Iraqis.

Iraq said it killed or wounded more than 90,000 Iranian troops thrown into a two-pronged attack towards Basra nine days ago.

Iraq said this was a long-awaited major offensive, while Tehran called it a limited operation which achieved its objectives and killed or wounded 9,500 Iraqis.

Gen. Fawzi said: "The Iraqis, at the beginning, managed to seize a feeble foothold on the western

bank of the Shatt Al Arab (border) waterway, but failed to hold it for more than five hours, after which the whole thing turned into a horrible catastrophe for them."

He said the major reason for the failure was "stupid military planning and failure to learn from lessons when they attacked last February."

In February, Iranian troops fought their way across the Shatt Al Arab to seize and hold the southern tip of Iraq's Fao peninsula at the head of the Gulf.

"It is strange that the Iranian military commanders ... at from the same place and against the same target," Gen. Fawzi said.

The outcome had been predictable before a single bullet had been fired; the Egyptian general added.

The Iraqi's technical, logistical and strategic surveillance helped them to prepare and engage the Iraqis before they could achieve significant progress.

Egypt has been a major supporter and adviser of Iraq since the six-year-old war.

Moroccan daily suggests postponement of OIC summit

RABAT (Agencies) — Morocco's pro-government evening newspaper Maroc Soir has suggested that the Islamic summit planned in Kuwait late this month should be postponed because of the Iran-Iraq war and inter-Arab differences.

The newspaper, which is under the direction of Minister of State Moulay Ahmad Alaoui, said Iran now openly opposed a summit being held in Kuwait because of its support for Iraq.

Also, the inter-Arab situation is full of differences likely to come into the open and block the proceedings, according to observers, at a time when the Arab world and the Islamic community need unanimity more than ever," it said.

"In view of this crisis situation, the fighting in Lebanon, the continuing Iran-Iraq war, many observers feel that the moment is not auspicious for holding an Islamic summit."

"They think it would be better to postpone it so that the contacts underway to clear up the atmosphere might continue and succeed."

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah is now visiting Morocco and diplomats expected him to discuss preparations for the Islamic summit with King Hassan, outgoing chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Iran Thursday called for the postponement of the Islamic summit scheduled for Jan. 26 in Kuwait until a new venue, away from the Gulf war front, has been chosen.

Tehran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted acting Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying Kuwait "is not a suitable venue."

He reiterated that Iran would not send a high-ranking delegation to the meeting if held in Kuwait.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Mr. Besharati spoke at a meeting with Iranian ambassadors to Islamic countries who were in Tehran for consultations.

He suggested that the 46-member OIC postpone the meeting "for a few months ... (until it) chooses another venue which would provide us with security and peace of mind."

He said Iran maintained silence when the OIC first announced its plans for the summit, giving Kuwait an opportunity to adopt a just and unbiased stance "vis-à-vis the six-year-old Iran-Iraq war."

But, he said, "Kuwait's material and political support for Iraq continued unabated."

Mr. Besharati did not rule out dispatch of some low-level Iranian delegates to the summit in Kuwait.

His remarks came one day after Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, secretary-general of the OIC, left Tehran after failing to convince Iranian leaders to dispatch a "high-level" delegation to the summit.

During his 3-day visit, Mr. Pirzadeh met with President Ali Khamenei, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Hussein Musavi and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

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U.S. Muslim leaders plan new bid to free hostages

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Two U.S. Muslim leaders have said they would return to Beirut later this month to renew attempts to win the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

Mohammad Mehdi said he and Dale Shaheen, the two top officers of the 40,000-member U.S. National Council on Islamic Affairs, will go to Lebanon in mid-January.

Mr. Mehdi and Mr. Shaheen spent two weeks in Lebanon last month trying to free hostages but said they failed to make useful contacts with the kidnappers.

In a statement Thursday, Mr. Mehdi said the kidnappers were "a group of independent, stubborn individuals who are not under the authority of Iran, as it is assumed by Americans."

The United States should "deal with the hostage holders, not with the Khomeini government," Mr. Mehdi said.

The American hostages are among 18 foreigners missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon, mostly by pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalist groups.

Mr. Mehdi said the Council Islamic Affairs was privately-funded group which tried to raise the political consciousness of eight million American Muslims and to educate other Americans about Islam.

Three American hostages have been released from Lebanon over the last 18 months as a result of U.S. overtures with Iran, including the sale of arms to Tehran.

Meanwhile Pope John Paul on Thursday appealed kidnappers' "sentimental humanity" in asking them to free their hostages in 1987.

The Pope was periodic urged kidnappers to free their victims. His latest call came during noon prayers before 10,000 faithful and tourists who crowd St. Peter's Square after he said New Year's Day mass in St. Peter's Basilica. The mass was dedicated to peace.

"On this great day of gladness, which the spirit is naturally carried to thoughts of optimism and hope, we cannot forget the people who suffer and await help," the Pope said.

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40 Ethiopians killed in guerrilla attack

ROME (R) — Unidentified guerrillas killed 40 Ethiopians and took 24 hostages in an attack on a rural work camp in western Ethiopia last week, Italian Foreign Ministry sources have said.

The sources, citing preliminary inquiries by Italian diplomats in Addis Ababa, said the camp, belonging to an Italian firm carrying out rural development work in Ethiopia, was attacked by about 100 guerrillas on Dec. 27.

A shallow grave containing the

bodies of 30 Ethiopian soldiers who had been guarding the camp and 10 nationals working there, had been discovered near the site in western Gwejam province, near the border with Sudan, the sources said.

Twenty people were injured in the hour-long attack and eyewitnesses said 20 Italians were among the 24 people seized by the guerrillas who fled westwards.

Nothing has been heard from the guerrillas and there has been

no claim of responsibility, but the sources said the attackers were thought to belong to one of several rebel groups fighting the government of Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The sources said Mengistu visited the work camp Thursday morning accompanied by senior ministers. Addis Ababa had also assured Italy of increased security measures to protect about 120 Italian technicians working on similar development projects in Ethiopia.

Battles across Beirut's "green line" killed 128 people and a further 148 died in Falangist-opposition clashes in the mountains east of the city.

In the northern part of Tripoli, 30 people were reported killed when Syrian troops battled Sunni fundamentalists.

Eighteen died in feuding between the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party and local Sunni fighters in hills south east of Beirut in April and 27 people were killed in June when Shi'ite and Sunni militiamen fought in Beirut.

Twenty-two people, including two senior army officers, died in political murders and six Lebanese Jews were reported "executed" by Muslim militants.

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But, he said, "Kuwait's material and political support for Iraq continued unabated."

Mr. Besharati did not rule out dispatch of some low-level Iranian delegates to the summit in Kuwait.

Ministry succeeds in crop reallocation plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's application of the agricultural patterns system in the 1985-86 agricultural season has been successful, and has helped reduce the amounts of surplus crops and increase the production of commodities in high demand on the local and Arab markets, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud announced.

He said that surplus production of traditional crops like tomatoes, eggplants and marrows has now dropped, which led to an improvement of their prices, a beneficial result for local producers.

Areas grown with tomatoes before the application of the system were estimated at 137,000 dunums, but after the application of the system, they dropped to 81,000 dunums, and those allocated for eggplant dropped from 49,500 dunums to 25,000, and marrows from 48,000 to 29,000 dunums, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Hmoud said that Jordan has been applying the system since the 1984-85 agricultural season, when 110,000 dunums were covered by this system; in the 1985-86 season, the areas included in the system rose to 387,000 dunums; in the 1986-87 season they are expected to rise to 407,000 dunums in the Jordan Valley and the higher lands, fed by rain.

The minister said that the application of the agricultural patterns system is intended to achieve the following objectives: — Meeting the local market's needs of crops and reducing imports. — Limiting the amount of certain crops to be produced so as to



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud discusses the ministry's agricultural patterns system designed to encourage production of crops in short supply and discourage those in surplus, in an interview with Petra (Petra photo).

prevent huge surpluses which used to create problems in marketing and brought down the prices of crops.

— Increasing the farmers' income by selling crops of different types at higher prices.

— Making better and more economic use of water resources with saved quantities helping to reclaim new areas.

The minister referred to a recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture which points to the fact that the initial application of the agricultural patterns system led to the achievement of self-sufficiency of Jordan in the production of pepper, tomatoes, marrows, cauliflowers, cucumbers, eggplants, cabbages and melons, which were up by 415 per cent, and that of wheat, barley, potatoes, onions and water

melons up by 55 per cent.

The past years witnessed a great expansion in the production of tomatoes, eggplants, marrows and cucumbers under plastic cover in the Jordan Valley; the excess production used to cause difficulty in marketing the surplus crops, the minister said.

Recently, he said, the Ministry of Agriculture started encouraging local farmers to produce onions, potatoes and cereals, which are in continuous demand in the country.

The ministry adopted these measures after studying the country's needs for different crops. It continues to help farmers process the surplus if no markets are found for the surplus abroad, the minister said.

To encourage farmers to apply the agricultural patterns system,

the minister said, the government has decided to offer subsidies in the form of financial help to farmers at the rate of JD 10 per dunum for tomatoes in the Jordan Valley and JD 15 per dunum of tomatoes in the higher regions of the Kingdom.

The government also decided it will purchase the produce of these farmers through the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) at very competitive prices and help to market it here and abroad, the minister added. Mr. Hmoud said that AMPCO has allocated JD 600,000 as subsidies for the farmers in the past agricultural season, and decided to purchase the surplus of the farmers' produce for processing.

In addition, AMPCO announced the prices of potatoes and onions in advance to encourage farmers who would otherwise try to sell crops elsewhere at fluctuating rates.

Mr. Hmoud said that AMPCO offered JD 90 for a tonne of potatoes, JD 75 for a tonne of onions, and JD 144 for a tonne of wheat to encourage farmers to produce such commodities for the market and reduce the Kingdom's dependence on imports.

As a result of these measures, the minister noted there has been a noticeable drop in the production of traditional crops like tomatoes, eggplants, and marrows, and a rise in the production of onions and potatoes.

Mr. Hmoud said that though these are initial steps, they are excellent indicators that the country is following a sound agricultural course that will help it avoid difficulties encountered in previous years.

JD 1.018 billion budget takes effect after parliamentary, royal approval

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai is expected to circulate memos to various ministries and government departments advising them that the 1987 fiscal budget has gone into effect after it was endorsed by the two Houses of Parliament and a Royal Decree was issued approving it.

The Royal Decree was issued approving the JD 1.018 billion budget on Wednesday, hours after the draft budget was endorsed by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) in a regular session.

The Lower House of Parliament approved the budget earlier in December.

The Upper House, in an almost three-hour debate on the budget, voiced support for the government's socio-economic and political policies, but cautioned against foreign borrowings on commercial basis.

The eight senators who spoke during the session as well as the Senate Financial Committee called for rationalising public expenditures, limiting imports in general and luxury commodities in particular and attracting Arab and foreign investments.

The senators also called on Arab and Islamic states to help finance the 1986-1990 development plan for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and voiced appreciation for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states for honouring their financial commitments to Jordan.

The senators also called on the government to offer more support for the agricultural sector in terms of finding Arab and foreign marketing outlets for Jordanian produce and to give the private sector a larger role through setting up a private sector economic council to put forward policies aimed at reviving the country's economy throughout the 1986-1990 National Five-Year

Development Plan. Senators also praised in particular the government's goals of strengthening the Armed Forces and public security apparatus and to curb growing unemployment and to protect the country's industries from competing with imported commodities.

Unlike the budget's endorsement by the Lower House of Parliament with a majority vote, after four deputies opposed the draft, the fiscal budget, which for the first time in the Kingdom's financial history exceeds JD 1 billion, was unanimously approved by the Senate.

At the outset of Wednesday's session, Financial Committee rapporteur Khalil Al Salem presented to the House the committee's remarks vis-a-vis the draft and later called on the House to pass the law.

Dr. Salem said the committee had noted that the projected gross domestic product (GDP) for 1986 was not calculated in the 1987 draft law.

Prime Minister Rifai, who was present during the session, replied in a statement at the end of the session that no mention had been made of the GDP since figures could not be obtained before the second half of 1987. He said the expectations regarding the GDP for 1986 were in line with the new 1986-1990 five-year development plan. He did not give any estimates over the expected GDP for 1986.

Dr. Salem said that unlike expectations for a JD 120 million decline in the Kingdom's balance

of trade deficit, the committee, based upon official information it received during its deliberations, projected the deficit to decline by JD 138 million in 1987.

Dr. Salem, a renowned economist and a highly-respected figure in financial circles, also said the committee was convinced that Jordan's foreign debt services for 1986 amounted to 12.4 per cent of its exports and thus was still far below the internationally recognised red line of 20 per cent.

"The committee, however, cautions against foreign borrowing on commercial basis to cover the financial commitments of either current expenditures or expenses for development projects. Instead, foreign borrowing should be diverted to wards investments in production sectors or to consolidate the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves," he said.

Mr. Rifai replied that the government supported the committee's call for intensified efforts to help take the country out of its current economic recession and that it would continue to encourage exports and stem imports of consumer and luxury commodities with the intention of adjusting the balance of trade and improving the foreign currency reserves.

The committee also called on the government to adhere to the financial allowances as allocated for in the 1987 fiscal budget in order to avoid any unprecedented financial burden, a characteristic of earlier fiscal years.

Dr. Salem said the committee was unable to reach an agreement over raising the ceiling in foreign currencies of Jordanian depositors from JD 30,000 to JD 100,000, and therefore, senators agreed that the Central Bank of Jordan would monitor the negative and positive effects of such a step and take a decision.

Mr. Rifai replied to the committee's statement said the

government had embarked on a monetary policy intended to increase foreign currency reserves by raising the ceiling of foreign currency amounts which Jordanians could keep in the Kingdom from JD 30,000 to JD 100,000 and by offering other incentives for savings.

On the government's plans to transform the status of a number of public companies into public shareholding companies operating on a commercial basis or into private shareholding institutions, the committee said it supported the scheme provided that the studies on transformation were carried out on a national level with the assistance of Jordanian expertise.

The committee said a special law had to be enacted to govern the activities of each of the public institutions subject to undergo privatisation and to take into consideration the services it offered as well as public interest.

Mr. Rifai, referring to these remarks, said the privatisation scheme was designed to help better services and to open the door for Arab and foreign investments in these entities.

Mr. Rifai also explained that the transformation of such organisations would take place in systematic course through the enactment of new laws and regulations.

The committee also called on the government to implement a number of laws which were taken during 1986 regarding the following points:

— The draft budget should include articles explaining the treasury's general situation; — The Law of the Pension Fund; — Measuring the revenues of public expenditures on the level of services and development gains; — Outlining the impacts of the draft budget on reactivating the economy; — Not to consider loans as revenues.

JSPME chairman urges subsidies for egg exports

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Society for the Production and Marketing of Eggs (JSPME) on Friday urged the government to further subsidise the society's exports in order to strike a balance between the supply and demand process of egg production in the Kingdom.

Mr. Suleiman Irtameh, the JSPME chairman of the board, said the society was seeking a government subsidy on egg exports up to 20 or 30 per cent of the price, so that local produce can outbid international prices in neighbouring countries.

The JSPME has signed a package deal with the Iraqi government to export 47 million eggs to the Iraqi market, within the first half of 1987, at a price of \$19.20 per carton—\$2 higher than the international price but still well below the local overall cost. Mr. Irtameh told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Irtameh said that the deal with Iraq, which he billed as a bargain, will offset an anticipated surplus of approximately 50 million eggs during the first six months of the current year. However, the society was looking towards renewing the agreement in the next half of 1987 but on better price terms, Mr. Irtameh added.

Last year, member firms of the society witnessed a severe financial setback—JD 1,650,000—as a result of a huge surplus of table eggs amounting to approximately 500 million eggs. The problem was gradually eased—but at the expense of local prices which dropped to record lows in a bid to market the accumulated surplus of eggs. The society could not then explore foreign markets since price competition with

international produce was unfavourable to the Jordanian produce.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Irtameh said the society was undertaking a set of rules aimed at preventing the repeat of last year's experience.

One solution is drawing up a mechanism—in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture—in order to control and regulate production in the egg sector.

A public awareness campaign will also be launched in order to raise the per capita consumption rate in the Kingdom from one of the lowest in the world, 135 annually, up to 170.

A prospective project to process egg powder—namely to address European markets—is currently under assessment as part of a comprehensive scheme to avoid surplus of table eggs, added Mr. Irtameh.

However, Mr. Irtameh pointed out that the best remedy is further supporting the egg producing sector as part of the agricultural sector for which the government allocated the amount of JD 4 million as subsidies on exports.

Mr. Irtameh contended that the subsidy would help narrow the difference between the international prices and the local price, which is considered one of the highest prices due to the high cost of production inputs.

In this regard, the society has plans to trade with inputs for member firms at very reasonable prices, a step which would lead to lowering the cost of production, Mr. Irtameh said.

Until 1971, Jordan had been a table-eggs importing country but the situation changed in mid 70's and the beginning of 80's. Today, 140 egg producing firms are yielding approximately 500 million eggs per annum.

Jordan invested \$2 billion in mining industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Energy Hisham Al Khatib said on Friday that Jordan's investment in mining and extractive industries amounted to approximately \$2 billion in the past few years.

Dr. Khatib, addressing the annual general assembly meeting of the Jordan geologists association, said that investments in mining industries—including rock phosphates, potash, cement and fertilisers—were the highest of any field in the Kingdom.

The work of Jordanian geologists have continuously developed, especially in receiving advanced technology in all fields of specialisation, the minister said.

The minister was referring to recent media reports that he charged misrepresented a comment of his on advanced technology and the prospects for Arab acquisition of up-to-date technology.

Nevertheless, Dr. Khatib told the meeting that he had hopes for Arab capabilities and historic achievements to acquire advanced technology.

The minister said he hoped the association's law will be amended during 1987.

APC signs agreement with IDB in S. Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) have signed a loan agreement in Saudi Arabia under which the bank will grant the APC a \$8 million loan to finance stage I of a \$25 million project aimed at expanding the production capacity of the potash factories refinery.

The agreement was signed by the APC Director General Ali Ensour and his deputy Suleiman Hawari who returned to Amman Friday after a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. The World Bank will also contribute \$12 million to the project.

The project will be implemented during 1987 and 1988 and will raise by 15 per cent the potash factories' annual production capacity. This will bring to 1,400,000 tonnes the annual production capacity of the potash factories.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Abu Hassan family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has presented his heartfelt condolences to Abu Hassan family on the passing away of the prominent businessman Abdul Rahman Abu Hassan at the age of 81. His body was laid to rest on Friday. Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid conveyed to Abu Hassan family the King's condolences when he called at the Abu Hassan residence on Thursday. The personal representative of King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the deceased family.

King endorses loan agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree issued Thursday endorsed Jordan's loan agreement with the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development and the Saudi Development Fund. Under the agreement both funds will provide loans for financing the Lower Zarqa Basin project and the construction of the Zara-Ghor Haditha road.

Dr. Ayyash killed in Vienna car accident

AMMAN (Petra) — Dr. Najji Ayyash, deputy director of health of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), was killed in a road accident in Vienna Wednesday night. Dr. Ayyash, aged 50, became deputy director of health in September 1984 on secondment from the World Health Organisation. Formerly UNRWA's field health officer in Jordan, Dr. Ayyash was Palestinian by birth, and subsequently adopted Jordanian nationality. He received his medical training in Egypt and the United Kingdom. Dr. Ayyash leaves a widow and four children.

295 road accidents occurred last week

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 295 road accidents occurred in Jordan in the past week resulting seven deaths and the injury of 145 persons, according to the Public Security Departments. It said in a statement that most of the accidents, 182, occurred in the Amman region.

Jordanian Armed Forces Band participates in 1987 Rose Parade

PASADENA, California (J.T.) — The internationally recognised Jordanian Armed Forces Band was among the 21 marching bands to take part in the 1987 Rose Parade, held on New Year's Day. The Jordanian Band was chosen along with the other bands who participated from among 250 applicants. Bands from Japan and Canada also took part.

The marching bands are flowered floats paraded before an estimated one million people in person, and more than 100 million in 20 countries via television.

The Rose Parade is called America's largest national ritual and probably the world's most televised—and famous—parade. Pele, the Brazilian soccer star, was honorary marshal for the 1987 parade. He led 21 marching bands and 59 flower-covered floats—each averaging 100,000 flowers, and some reaching 30 metres high. Biggest and most spectacular this year was a computerised, life-like "Loch Ness Monster," which twisted and turned its long neck high above the crowds lining the streets. Last New Year a six-storey giant teddy bear, covered with flowers, popped up through a monolithic birthday cake. Another float featured a giant floral airplane piloted by a giant floral elephant.

Fifteen nations entered floats. Last year the floats advertised everything from Singapore Airlines to Japanese Hondas to French Yoplait yogurt. Says one veteran Pasadena float designer, "This has become an international event, over which Pasadena has no control."

Even the flowers are international. Originally, the rose was chosen as the parade's theme to symbolise "thousands of flowers in bloom, while our former Eastern homes are buried in snow." Now the rose is outnumbered by local chrysanthemums, Dutch tulips, African proteas, and many other blossoms from Hawaii, Central and South America, Italy, and Israel.

The parade originally began in 1892 as a parade of horse drawn wagons filled with flowers and oranges, culminating in a picnic. Then chariot races were added.

In 1902 the climax was a game of the then little-known sport now called American football. (Michigan beat a local university team 40-0). The game, like the parade, grew in popularity until it too became an annual tradition, the Rose Bowl, and a 100,000-seat stadium was built to host it.

Of all the 84 Rose Bowl games to date, the most famous remains the 1929 contest between Georgia Tech and the University of California. Georgia Tech fumbled the ball, which bounced into the arms of California's Roy Riegels, who began a furious race 98 yards down the field to the goal—the wrong goal—spurred on by the shrieks of the crowd, which drowned out the cries of his teammates.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Special issue No. 334

Drawing of Jan. 1, 1987

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 85684 Wins JD 50,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 10,000 each wins JD 1,000 85685 85694 85784 86684 95684 85683 85674 85584 84684 75684
Holder of ticket No. 68238 Wins JD 20,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 5,000 each wins JD 500 68239 68248 68338 69238 78238 68237 68228 68138 67238 58238
Holder of ticket No. 92370 Wins JD 10,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 4,000 each wins JD 400 92371 92380 92470 93370 02370 92379 92360 92270 91370 82370
Holder of ticket No. 64023 Wins JD 5,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 3,000 each wins JD 300 64024 64033 64123 65023 74023 64022 64013 64923 63023 54023
Holder of ticket No. 90034 Wins JD 4,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 2,000 each wins JD 200 90035 90044 90134 91034 00034 90033 90024 90934 99034 80034
Holder of ticket No. 03259 Wins JD 3,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100 03250 03269 03359 04259 13259 03258 03249 03159 02259 93259
Holder of ticket No. 24027 Wins JD 2,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60 24028 24037 24127 25027 34027 24026 24017 24927 23027 14027
Holder of ticket No. 71457 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 71458 71467 71557 72457 81457 71456 71447 71357 70457 61457

Ticket numbers	86535 72385 03604 87816 75214	win JD 600 each
Ticket numbers	70751 72160 99629 18975 90073	win JD 400 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

8085 0167 1034 6663 7159	Win JD 100 each	1175 9014 6036 3663 3496	Win JD 50 each
792 970 491 924 791	Win JD 20 each	766 648 758 717 182	Win JD 10 each
5,000 ticket ending with	98 66 68 60 62		Win JD 5 each

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Thirty covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in	059 054 967 759 657	Win JD 30
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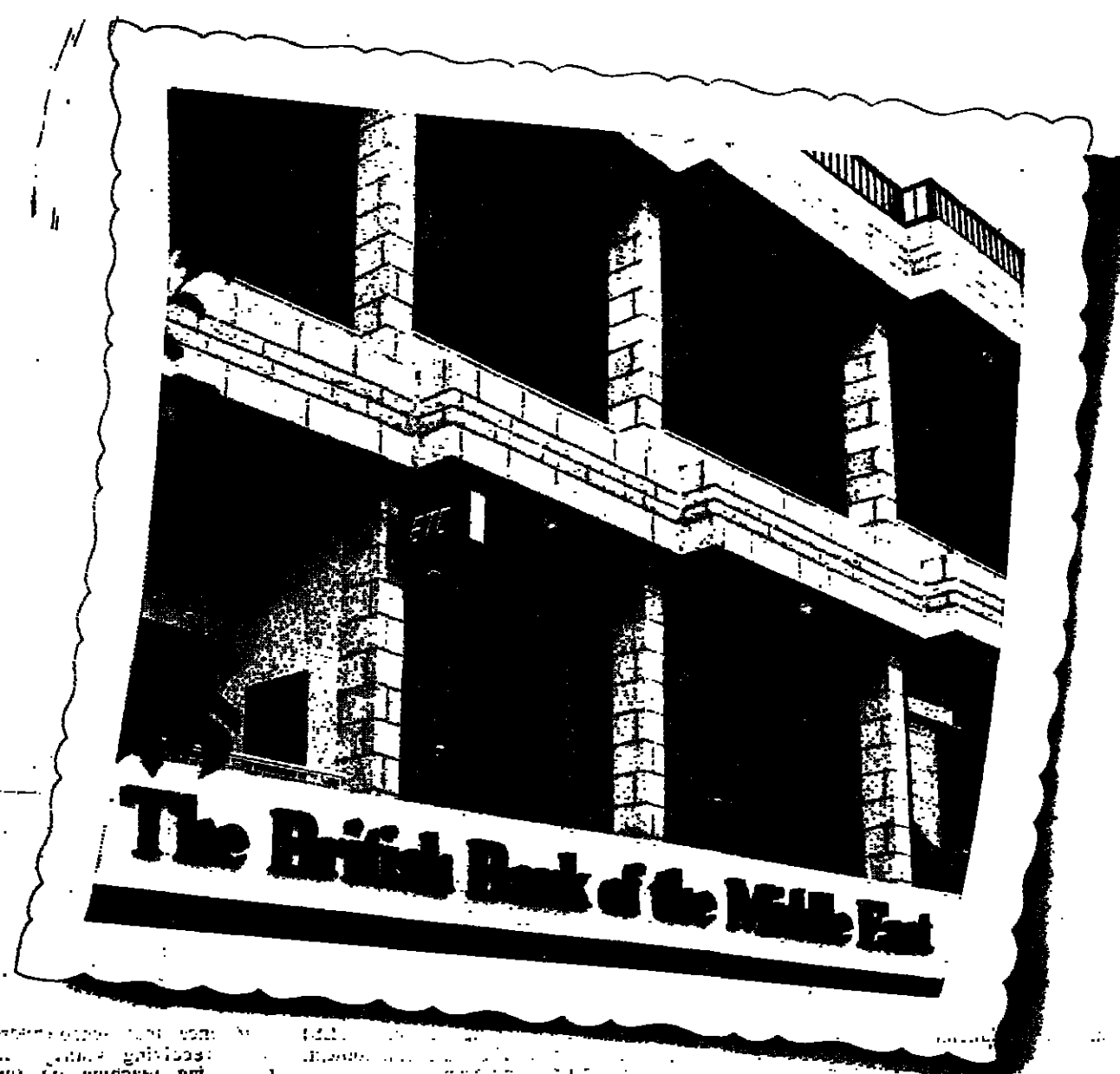
Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 333 of Dec. 17, 1986

Abdullah Sa'ad Student - Amman Half first JD 10,000	Ramadan Al Jassani Blacksmith - Amman Half first JD 10,000	Nader Al Yaseen Student - Al Husein Half third JD 1,250	Ramzi Al Odeh Proprietor - Half fourth JD 1,000	Mahmoud Shamsiah Government Employee - Madaba Half fourth JD 1,000	Ramzi Al Odeh Student - Amman Half fifth JD 500

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البنك البريطاني للشرق الأوسط

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of two men standing outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a hat and a dark jacket, and the man on the right is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. They are standing in front of a building with a porch. The image is heavily stylized with high contrast, resulting in a loss of fine detail and a grainy, almost binary appearance. The man on the left is slightly taller and is wearing a dark, wide-brimmed hat. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt and dark trousers. They are both looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with a porch and some foliage, but the details are obscured by the high contrast.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to consider your unique and unusual goals for the New Year. Think of the best ways and means to use them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Go over your list of friends and know which are best to retain. Spend some time with these people.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make plans to gain your ambitions during this new year. Enthusiasm is important.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Any new courses of action you have in mind should be expanded now. Set up a schedule.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get a plan worked out that can make it easier for you to handle responsibilities.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Try to please your outside associates more. Improve your handling of civil matters. Be calm and happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Set up a schedule to utilize modern conveniences more wisely. Get better results this way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get your finest talents improved so that you can use them more profitably in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study your home on this first day of the new year and see what needs improvement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A fine day for making phone calls and handling correspondence that is necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how to have greater abundance. Arrange your budget and assets wisely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good day to get your appearance improved. Dash out socially in a regal manner.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get those personal duties handled so that later you can go out with greater confidence.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one of those charming young persons who can never do anything quite like other children do, so give this child free rein to use his, or her, unusual methods. Show a lot of affection for this one.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 2, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An excellent day and evening for you to proceed with the original and progressive plans that appeal to you. Branch out in new fields for greater headway.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan to meet with your best friends. Make new friends through those friends whose qualities you desire.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact those with power who can help you attain your finest ambitions. State your plans clearly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Gain new allies whose background is quite different to your own. A fine partnership can be formed.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get your business operating on a more modern level and get better results.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Add new allies to your present associations. Get your image improved and gain more public prestige.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A good day to find new mechanisms for bringing you greater efficiency. Make the future brighter for all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Seek those pleasures that your truly like. Stop procrastinating and enjoy them. Buy a gift for your mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have delayed handling new interests to find a better method, but now go ahead with confidence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A day to have fine communication with others. Be courteous and cement better relations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A fine day for making improvements to your home. Study your newspaper and other periodicals as well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be courageous in going after your personal aims and they are soon yours. See your good friends and be charming.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get out of that rut you have gotten into and get into new interests that are fascinating and profitable.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will adhere to the standard, but will be interested in whatever is modern. Give a fine course of education that will bring out the fine talents here. If you give your child freedom, you will avoid a tendency in this one to become rebellious.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 3, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning finds you able to put some zip and zest into your usual Saturday activities while the afternoon brings conservative ways to achieve treasured goals.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Being with good friends can bring much delight, but don't forget about the one you love. Have romantic fun.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact those who can assist you with career advancement. Any public work should be handled later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Handle out-of-town affairs. Plan to see a charming later on. Be with congenials tonight and be happy.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Put some zip into business matters. Find a thoughtful gift for your mate which can bring happiness.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Showing your finest talents is wise. A clever person can give you fine ideas to utilize later.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Find a more modern way of handling regular practical affairs. Your mate can bring you joy and happiness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Seek pleasure in the morning, but later finish some risky social plans you have been making.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find some way that will please your family more. Work on some long-range project that interests you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan how to answer important matters with a letter. Get in touch with one who has valuable information.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be careful in spending. Try to save your money so that you can feel more secure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Today is fine for expressing your unusual views. Others, however, may not understand.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study into inspiring new ideas and use them to your advantage. Use precision in handling details.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have many original ideas which you should encourage. These thoughts can bring success upon reaching maturity when coupled with the practical. One who should have many playmates around since there is a natural quality of leadership.



Bullfighters risk their lives and take the bull's life for audience applause (File photos).



Winter brings leaner times to famous bullfighters of Spain

By Francois Raitberger
Raufer

MADRID — Spain's bull rings close down in winter, providing relief for the bulls but making it a lean season for the men who fight them.

Except for top bullfighters who travel to South America or relax on their estates, the heroes of the rings generally have to look for jobs to see them through until the spring.

"And believe you me, it is not easy in a country with over 20 per cent unemployed," said assistant bullfighter Pedro Giraldo.

In winter, most of the fighters must remove the glamorous suit of lights they wear in the ring and do ordinary working clothes.

Many drive taxis, some deliver milk, become waiters or bricklayers or look after cattle.

Others are travelling salesmen, taking advantage of the contacts they have made while criss-crossing Spain during the fighting season.

Giraldo said he was lucky that a friend gave him a job in his mechanics workshop. "He took me on only because he liked bullfighting," he said.

"Those who find nothing touch their friends for some pesetas to keep going," said bullfighter

Lucio Sandin.

Sandin, a promising 23-year-old, is one of the very few who use the winter season to study. Gored and blinded in one eye, he is studying at university to become an optician.

Bullfighters are paid by the fight. They earn nothing when idle and are not entitled to unemployment benefits. Only a few have savings.

Sandin said he was left with about \$42,000 a year after paying off his assistants. Giraldo, a banderillero who sticks decorated darts into the bull, said he earned

about \$11,000 for the season.

At one time, many Spanish bullfighters and assistants went in winter to perform in Latin American countries which have kept the tradition — mainly Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

But the region's foreign debt and economic crisis had made the trip hardly profitable, bullfight critic Bill Lyon said.

"It is worthwhile only for the very top bullfighters assured of big contracts, or for those who are desperate for a contract and hope for a last chance," he said.



The final moments of a typical bullfight (File photo)

Experts still back contraceptive pill

By Joanne Barry

MEDICAL specialists are continuing to support the combined contraceptive pill in spite of conflicting evidence of a possible link with breast cancer.

A new study by the Swedish Cancer Society in Stockholm suggesting a relationship between the pill and breast cancer could spell serious consequences for the estimated 50 million users of the contraceptive worldwide. But a New Zealand study published simultaneously has contradicted the Swedish research concluding that there is no link with breast cancer.

Now doctors are striving to prevent panic in the current climate of uncertainty by pointing to earlier research which has been generally reassuring, including the largest ever study on breast cancer and the pill which was carried out earlier this year in the United States by the Centres for Disease Control and the National Institute for Health.

This research — called the Cancer and Steroid Hormone Study (CASH) — found no link between oral contraceptives and breast cancer in general or among any specific group — including that of young women.

In contrast, the case-control study published on Sept. 30 by the Stockholm-based Olav Meirik and colleagues in the British journal, *The Lancet*, suggests an association between the pill and breast cancer among women in Norway and Sweden who have used the pill for eight years or more before their first full-term pregnancy, or for over 12 years in total.

But a population-based case-control study carried out in New Zealand and published in the same day in the *British Medical Journal* by Charlotte Paul and colleagues, found no such link.

Specialists have praised both new studies for being well-conducted and have tried to explain the conflicting findings by pointing to variations in pill use and dosage over the years in different countries.

Professor Malcolm Pike, of Britain's Imperial Cancer Research Fund in Oxford, whose own study in 1983 also found an increased risk among young long-term users of some types of pill, criticised the Swedish research for failing to distinguish between different brands.

Dr. Sheelagh Biddell, chairman of Britain's National Association of Family Planning Doctors, and Dr. Angela Mills, medical officer of Britain's Family Planning Association, said in a joint statement that there was insufficient evidence to change current practice in prescribing combined oral contraceptives.

A *British Medical Journal* editorial on Sept. 20 summed up:

"We cannot say with any certainty that the pill used for long periods early in reproductive life is, or is not, associated with change in the risk of breast cancer."

So the fact is that no one is sure precisely why the findings of the two latest studies differed so dramatically and where the truth really lies. The obvious solution, everyone agrees, must come from continued research.

The chairman of Britain's Committee on Safety of Medicines, Sir Abraham Goldberg, said as much in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* and *The Lancet*. While each of the new studies was commendable, he said, neither could reach "an acceptable conclusion because there are important aspects of the problem, such as the effects of very long latency periods, which

must remain under continued study."

However, he also drew attention to the American CASH study, which showed "that the duration of oral contraceptive use did not influence the risk of breast cancer." Both the new studies, he said, had to be viewed against the background of this "very much larger" undertaking which surveyed 4,711 women with breast cancer, compared with only 422 in Meirik's study and 433 in Paul's research.

The same line was taken by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), a major supplier of contraceptives around the world, and with member family planning associations in 123 countries.

In a press statement, IPPF called for continued research and backed Sir Abraham Goldberg's appeal not to alter prescribing practices at this stage. However, it did advise women to take the lowest possible effective dosage in line with earlier recommendations of its International Medical Advisory Panel.

Britain's Committee on Safety of Medicines plans to conduct an in-depth study of the latest pill findings and IPPF's medical panel will shortly undertake a review of all new information on oral contraceptives. Until further evidence comes to light, the reality for millions of women facing impaired health, social and economic deprivation or death from unwanted or dangerous pregnancies, is that the pill remains the most reliable, well-researched contraceptive available — *People Feature*.

Snooker — the pot of gold in potting

Barry Hearn runs a stable of top U.K. snooker players. Philip Coggan explains how they generate the cash at the end of the green baize

LONDON — Friends thought Barry Hearn was crazy when he bought a chain of snooker halls 13 years ago. Today, snooker is Britain's most popular TV sport. Adorning the wall of Hearn's smart Romford office, east of London's East End, is a cheque from Courage, the U.K. brewery, for a million pounds made out to his protégé, Steve Davis. It seems the whole world has gone "snooker loopy."

Hearn's Matchroom stable of snooker players includes seven of the world's top 13 from the consistent Davis and the wise-cracking Irishman Dennis Taylor to "Whirlwind" Jimmy White. More likely than not, when snooker finals are causing late nights and square eyes from TV among snooker fans, Hearn's players will be involved. This is the kind of industry domination that in another sphere would lead to an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. And it gives Hearn's group a lot of earning power.

As Hearn explains, revenue comes from four sources. "First of all, there's the prize money. It's chicken and egg. Without that, you can't get the rest — personal appearance money, product endorsements, and spin-offs like books and records." The better the player, the lower the proportion of prize money within the overall takings. Steve Davis has the best ratio — one to two.

If there is a slight trace of paternal pride in Hearn's voice when he refers to Davis, it is not surprising. The lad from Plumstead, south east London, was an amateur when Hearn met him in 1976 and he has been with him as friend and manager ever since.

As the snooker boom took off in the late 1970s, and Davis began to master his sport, winning his first big title in 1980, Hearn gradually cottoned on to the game's potential. "It was a long learning process," he recalls, "both for Steve on the table and for me, off it."

At first, Hearn concentrated on two sponsors, Courage and the snooker table manufacturer, Riley Leisure, which bought his original company, Lucania Snooker Clubs, in 1982. Realising that other snooker players were on the look-out for managers, he formed Matchroom in 1982, quickly adding Terry Griffiths and Tony Meo to his stable.

All the players' income goes direct to Matchroom — wholly owned by Hearn — which takes 20 per cent to cover overheads, and of course, Hearn's profit. Each player is incorporated as a limited company to provide some tax shelter, and all their tax planning and accounts are handled by Matchroom. "Steve Davis has three companies," adds Hearn, "one for his investments, one for his earnings and one for his promotional activities."

Hearn qualified as an accountant in 1970 and spent three years at Thomson's McDintock before moving into the snooker business, so he feels no

qualms about taking almost complete financial control over his players' finances. "I handle all their bank accounts," he says with a grin, "and if they want to buy something, they give me a call."

It may sound a trifle tyrannical, but Hearn appears to be a benevolent despot, as his ever-lengthening roster of players seems to prove. "I don't think there's a player who goes without anything he wants," he adds. "They appreciate an ordered life."

With all those tournaments and exhibitions to organise, Hearn works a long day. When I met him, he was bleary-eyed after a grand prix competition victory by Jimmy White the previous night. "That will put Jimmy's fee up to £2,500 (\$3,600) an evening," he said enthusiastically. Nowadays those kinds of fees are no longer earned from the old round of working men's clubs, but from businessmen entertaining clients eager to meet, and play against, their heroes.

Knowing where and when his players are supposed to be is the stuff of Hearn's working life. "I dream itineraries," he says. In the early autumn he had drawn up detailed plans for each player to take them through until Christmas. "We have outline plans for the whole of 1987," he adds.

Hearn's nightmare is a missed engagement. "We have a reputation for performing on time," he says. "If we make a mistake in our itinerary, a player can be eliminated from a tournament and Matchroom can be sued." Even the laid plans can go wrong, as Tony Meo discovered when his car had a tyre blow-out. He was docked two frames in the match for lateness, but he still won.

Recalling an incident which highlights the problems he faces with his stable, when they were about to fly off to a tournament, Hearn says: "One can't find his passport, one is delayed because of an accident in Manchester and one is lying in bed because he thinks the plane will be late."

Keeping the players happy involves a lot more than ensuring the travel arrangements go smoothly. With seven people on the road together for long periods at a stretch, there is a great risk of clashing egos.

Hearn believes there is a lot of jargon talked about man management. "It's important to understand that everyone's different," he says, "but above all, the players know that while they're in charge on the table, I'm in charge off it."

Outside the majors, Hearn feels free to exploit his group's potential. In October, he announced the formation of an eight-man league — his players plus Cliff Thorburn — with Rothmans sponsoring to the tune of £500,000 over two years. Not a bad business proposition, considering that seven-eighths of the prize money is likely to come to Matchroom.

Financial Times feature.

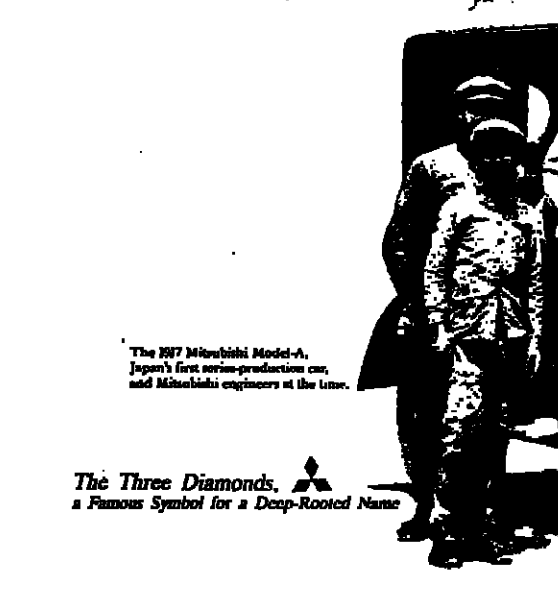
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Nicholas comes alive to score two for Arsenal

LONDON (AP) — Scottish international Charlie Nicholas ended a personal goal famine as he struck twice for Arsenal against Wimbledon in a 3-1 triumph that maintained the north London club's four-point lead in the English soccer standings.

Nicholas, who had not scored since the opening day of the season last August, began 1987 in spectacular style as he also played a part in his team's other goal.

Arsenal's clear-cut victory Thursday extended its unbeaten streak to 18 games and enabled it to stay clear of Everton, which trimmed struggling Aston Villa 3-0.

Second half goals by Alan Harper, Trevor Steven and Kevin Sheedy took Everton's tally over the Christmas-New Year holiday period to 12 from three games.

Champion Liverpool remained third, but needed a late strike by its Italy-bound striker, Ian Rush, to gain a point at fourth-placed Nottingham Forest.

Rush made it 1-1 with three minutes remaining after Forest had held the lead through its

teen-age striker, Phil Starbuck, who scored on his home debut.

Tottenham Hotspur's push for the title gained momentum with a hard-earned 2-0 victory at Charlton Athletic. Belgian international striker Nico Claesen scored Tottenham's first as his side climbed to fifth in the standings.

The biggest crowd of the day, 43,000, saw Manchester United continue its climb away from the lower reaches of the standings with a 4-1 triumph over struggling Newcastle United.

Danish star Jesper Olsen was on the mark for Manchester, which was helped on its way by an early goal by Newcastle's Peter Jackson.

West Ham United reversed a slide by beating bottom club Leicester City by the same score.

while Chelsea moved further away from the danger zone by downing Queens Park Rangers 3-1.

Another 3-1 triumph went to Oxford United over Southampton, which had fullback Gerry Forrest sent off for a foul.

Luton Town won 1-0 at Coventry City while the two remaining First Division games—Sheffield Wednesday against Norwich City and Watford against Manchester City—both were tied 1-1.

Paul Hart, a defender with Second Division Birmingham City, had a disastrous start to the New Year. The day after he signed for the central English team, he broke a leg after 38 minutes of his debut against Plymouth Argyle. Birmingham won 3-2.

In Scotland, Glasgow Rangers beat Arch Rival, Celtic, 2-0 at home to close the gap on the champion. Rangers, who have spent some £2 million (\$2.8 million) on English players to strengthen the team, cut Celtic's lead to three points. Rangers also have a game in hand.

Paris-Dakar rallyists embark for Algiers

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Motorcycles, cars, trucks and participants in the ninth Paris-Dakar Rally boarded three ferries Friday morning to travel to Algiers and continue the 23-day, 12,000-kilometre event.

France's Gilles Lalay, riding a Honda, was the first of the 494 participants to arrive in Barcelona early Friday on the first leg of 1,200 kilometres from Versailles, near Paris.

The next to arrive was France's Hubert Auriol and Belgium's Gaston Rahier, both on BMWs, followed by Teo De Rooy of The Netherlands, driving his huge truck DAF.

All teams of 73 trucks, 143 motorcycles and 282 cars arrived in Barcelona within the 20 hours set by the organisers to cover the stage from Versailles.

Finland's Ari Vatanen, an international rallyist, was penalised by 2 minutes because he had a flat tire and received help repairing it from spectators.

The car driven by Jacky Ickx of Belgium developed trouble in the first kilometres, delaying his arrival in Barcelona for some hours.

This year's race will end in the Atlantic Beach of Dakar Jan. 22. The course runs through the deserts of Algeria, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

Mandlikova to meet Sukova in semifinals

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Top-seeded Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia scored a straight sets victory over Canadian teenager Helen Klesi Friday to move into the semifinals of the women's tennis tournament at Brisbane's Milton Courts.

Mandlikova, ranked fourth in the world, downed Klesi 6-3, 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

She next will face third-seeded compatriot Helena Sukova, a 7-5, 6-3 victor over Rosalyn Fairbank of South Africa.

Fairbank squandered a set point before losing the first set and was overrun in the second.

The other semifinal will feature

Pam Shriver against fellow American Betsy Nagelsen.

The second-seeded Shriver breezed past West German Eva Pfaff 6-3, 6-4 in her quarterfinal match, while Nagelsen kept up her fine run by defeating Australian Elizabeth Smylie 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Nagelsen used chip-and-charge tactics against Smylie.

"I made a conscious decision to get in and hit the ball harder and earlier," Nagelsen said. "I didn't want to get into any rallies with her."

The semifinals will be played Saturday with the final slated for Sunday afternoon.

Norman is man to beat on 1987 U.S. golf tour

By John Pine
Reuter

LOS ANGELES (R) — Greg Norman, who collected a dazzling 1.8 million dollars last year, looks for more rich pickings with the start next week of the 1987 U.S. golf tour where a record \$30 million is up for grabs.

Now based in Florida, the Australian also believes he can become the first man to complete the "Grand Slam" of golf with victories in the four majors.

Norman said: "I wanted the British Open to be my first major, because it's the world open."

"I wish I'd won all four majors, but there's no monkey on my back because I didn't. I'm convinced the Grand Slam is possible. I'm not going to say I'll do it this year, but the possibility is there."

The greatest challenge to Norman in the U.S. and round the globe is likely to come from Severiano Ballesteros, who is returning to play nine tournaments in America after his suspension last year.

But Jack Nicklaus will reduce his schedule following a stirring 18th major championship victory in the Masters last April.

The new season opens on Jan. 7 in Carlsbad, California, with the \$600,000 Tournament of Champions bringing together Norman, Nicklaus and some 30 other players who won tournaments last year, including

title-holder Calvin Peete.

Norman emerged as the game's most dominant force in 1986 by becoming the first golfer to earn more than \$1 million in a season. He won the British Open and led the three other majors — the Masters, U.S. Open and PGA Championship — after three rounds.

With a total of 10 tournament victories around the world, Norman carried a record \$1.8 million in prize money and became the first golfer to head the U.S., European and Australian money standings in one year.

With a record \$653,296, he also became the first non-American to top the U.S. money list since South African Gary Player in 1961 — even though he left the U.S. tour in early August.

Money list runner-up Bob Tway, who snatched the PGA Championship from Norman by holing a bunker shot at the final green, finished about \$500 short despite playing seven more U.S. tournaments following Norman's departure.

"I think he (Norman) is the next big star," said Nicklaus, who at 46 became the oldest golfer ever to win the Masters when he staged a record sixth triumph at Augusta.

"He grew up playing on poorly maintained courses overseas and developed an adaptable game that most of our young players lack. He was high in both the driving and putting statistics last year, and that's an impressive combination. His best years should be ahead of him."

Nicklaus played 16 events in 1986, not including appearances in Scotland, Australia and Japan, but plans to cut back his tournament schedule to around 10 this year, concentrating on the majors that start with the Masters on April 9.

Bowl roundup

Oklahoma triumphs in Orange Bowl

NEW YORK (AP) — Oklahoma won its ninth straight game with an awesome display of offensive and defensive power Thursday night, routing Arkansas 42-8 in the Orange Bowl.

Spencer Tillman ran 77 and 21 yards for touchdowns and no. 3 Oklahoma's defence came up with five turnovers against beleaguered Arkansas.

Tillman, a senior halfback who ran for 109 yards, scored twice in the second quarter, and quarterback Jamelle Hollieway added touchdown runs of two and four yards in the third period as the Sooners built a commanding 28-0 lead.

The Oklahoma defence was dominant Thursday, even without all-American linebacker Brian Bosworth, who was barred from playing after testing positive for steroids.

One year ago, the Sooners won the national title with a 25-10 victory over Penn State in the Orange Bowl. This time, no. 2 Penn State will be in Friday night's Fiesta Bowl, playing no. 1 Miami from the college football championship.

The Pacific-10's mastery of the Big Ten in the Rose Bowl

Rose Bowl

Arizona State 22, Michigan 15
Jeff Van Raaphorst, fulfilling the dream his father had denied, threw for 193 yards and two touchdowns in the Sun Devil's first appearance in the Rose Bowl.

The victory was the sixth straight for the PAC-10 champion over the Big Ten champion in the game.

Citrus Bowl

Auburn 16, Southern California 7

All-American Brent Fullwood ran for 152 yards and a

touchdown, and Jeff Burger threw a 3-yard scoring pass for Auburn, spotting Ted Tollner's last game as coach of the Trojans.

Cotton Bowl

Ohio St. 28, Texas A and M 12
All-American linebacker Chris Spielman returned an interception 24 yards for a touchdown, and Michael Key brought another one back a record 49 yards for Ohio State in the Big Ten conference's debut in the Cotton Bowl.

Spielman, a junior, also killed off a fourth-quarter Aggie rally with his second interception.

Sugar Bowl

Nebraska 30, LSU 15
Steve Taylor scored one touchdown and passed for another, and Danny Noonan and Broderick Thomas led a big-play defence that carried Nebraska over LSU in the 53rd Sugar Bowl.

Taylor, the game's MVP, capped a nine-play, 72-yard drive that required only 63 seconds by scoring on a 2-yard keeper to give the Cornhuskers the lead for good at 10-7 with only 39 seconds left in the first half.

New Zealand, Stars and Stripes in finals

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — New Zealand and Stars and Stripes both completed sweeps in the America's Cup challenger semifinals Friday and will meet in the finals.

New Zealand completed its four-race sweep of French Kiss with a resounding 2-minute, 44-second triumph. New Zealand, skippered by Chris Dickson, has lost only once in 38 races since the

challenger trials began last October—a first-round defeat at the hands of Stars and Stripes.

Stars and Stripes, the San Diego Yacht Club entry skippered by Dennis Conner, beat USA by 43 seconds to win for the fourth

straight time against the San Francisco-based boat piloted by Conner's long-time rival, Tom Blackaller. Stars and Stripes has won 31 of its 38 races.

Both USA and Stars and Stripes flew protest flags during the race, but the protests were not officially filed.

The challenger finals are slated to start Jan. 13.

The Stars and Stripes-USA match was close throughout, with Conner never leading by more than 26 seconds until the final beat.

Stars and Stripes had a one-second edge at the start and stretched it to 26 seconds at the first buoy. USA cut four seconds off the lead on the downward leg and the margin remained unchanged on the next beat.

It was on the reaching leg that USA suddenly came to life and trailed by only 13 seconds at the buoy. It overtook Stars and Stripes, only to lose the lead on the protested tack.

Conner led at the next downwind mark by 11 seconds and then added 11 more to his lead on the third windward leg.

USA managed to close the margin to 19 seconds on the final run only to lose 22 seconds going for the finish line.

The races were delayed one hour, 35 minutes by light weather and when the gun went off, the breezes were only between eight and 10 knots. The winds continued to build during the race and by the time the boats headed for the barn, they were up to 22 knots.

In the defender trials, Kookaburra III took advantage of a broken mainsail to beat Australia IV and pull into a tie for first place.

Colin Beashel and Australia IV held a 54-second margin going into the final leg—but then the mainsail came tumbling down. It was quickly repaired and hoisted, but Iain Murray and Kookaburra III grabbed the lead and crossed the finish line 17 seconds ahead.

Kookaburra III takes on Steak 'n' Kidney Saturday, while Kookaburra II tangles with Australia IV.

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Applications are invited from experienced teachers or recent graduates, for teaching posts in the following subjects, in which vacancies may possibly arise for September 1987.

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Junior School Arabic (grades 1-6, with social studies and Islamic religion)

Islamic Studies (in English, for GCE 'O' level)

English language and literature (for GCE 'O' and 'A' level and IB)

English as a foreign language

Junior School (grades 1-6) and Kindergarten English.

Mathematics (in Arabic and English)

Chemistry (in Arabic and English) grades 7-12

Biology (in Arabic and English) grades 7-12

Physics (in Arabic and English) grades 7-12

Technology (including electronics and computing: Arabic and/or English)

History (in English, to GCE 'O' and 'A' level and IB)

Geography (in English, to GCE 'O' and 'A' level and IB)

French (including English/French translation)

Christian religion (in English)

The school is especially interested in receiving applications from candidates with experience in careers counselling. Preparatory training courses in Britain may be offered to selected successful candidates.

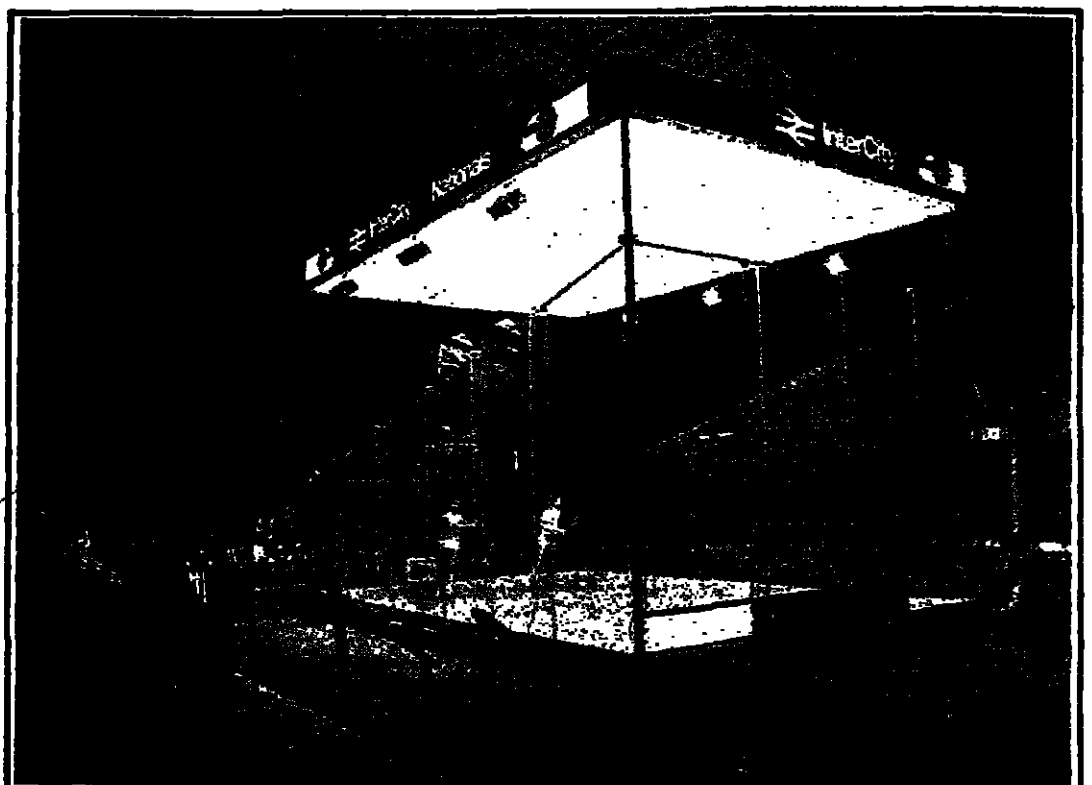
Application forms are available from the school from Jan. 3, 1987 and should be returned by Wednesday Jan. 14, 1987.



THE CROWN PRINCE'S AWARD

The Crown Prince's Award Programme invites applications for the post of administrator/secretary. Candidates must be fluent in Arabic and English, must be able to type in both languages (word processing experience is an advantage), must have general administrative experience, and must be accustomed to working independently.

Please address a detailed letter of application in your second language to Miss Samar Kildani, National Coordinator, at the International Baccalaureate School, P.O. Box 441, Sweileh, (telephone 845572). Your letter should be accompanied by a full CV and the names of three referees.



PEEKABOO: A clear view of squash action — traditionally a sport which has been able to provide only limited spectator facilities — is offered by this see-through court as Mark Maclean and Philip Whitlock compete in Britain's Inter-city National Squash championships at Bristol, south-west England. The walls of the court are of ICI Perspex treated with laminated black and white dots which allow spectators to view the action but prevent the players from seeing out or being distracted by any movement outside the court.

Pakistan upsets Australia in cricket

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Pakistan snatched a miraculous one wicket victory over Australia with a ball to spare in a nail-biting third match in the Benson and Hedges Challenge at the WACA Ground here Friday.

Pakistan number 11 batsman Saleem Jaffar hit the fifth ball of the final over bowled by Steve Waugh for two to give Pakistan an amazing backs to the wall victory.

After the collapse of the Pakistan top order, the middle and late batsmen all contributed with late inclusion Asif Mujtaba remaining unbeaten on 60.

Manzoor Elahi with 48 and Saleem Yousef with 31 also thrashed the Australian bowling after the home side seemed assured of victory.

Dean Jones, who won the man of the match award for his 121 and Steve Waugh with 82 shared a

fourth wicket stand of 173 which took Australia to a total of six for 273, seemingly enough for victory.

Pakistan, following its first up victory over the West Indies Tuesday, is assured of a place in next week's final.

England, easy winners over Australia Thursday, takes on the West Indies Saturday.

Thursday's action

On Thursday, two classic innings of complete contrast — a Howitzer-like 68 by Ian Botham and a more sedate but equally meritorious century from Dean Jones — gave a record crowd a feast of entertainment in the second match of the tournament.

Botham's brutal 68 from only 39 balls set up a match-winning total of 6-272 for England, while

Jones' first one-day international century kept Australia alive for a good portion of the night's proceedings.

Australia, with Jones the only player to top 30, eventually fell 37 runs short when all out in the final over, but at least the home side showed some fight, sadly missing in the Melbourne test last week.

Jones' 104 came from 125 balls and included eight fours and a six and confirmed his reputation as an outstanding one-day batsman.

But Botham was the difference between the two sides. He slaughtered the Australian attack in clouting seven fours and three sixes before a crowd of 27,125, beating the previous record attendance of 27,057.

The champion all-rounder, who won the man-of-the-match award, plundered 26 runs from the 45th over bowled by Simon Davis.

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Brand new furniture.

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Additional Party 10:30 a.m.

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

AN AMERICAN WERE WOLF IN LONDON

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573

THE HITCHER

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

WEIRD SCIENCE

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198

THE TATTOOED DRAGON

Performances 12:15, 3:30, 6:00, 9:45

Dollar starts 1987 at 6-year low in Europe

LONDON (R) — The dollar started 1987 at a six-year low on European foreign exchanges, and currency dealers said it would remain on this low during the new year because of market worries over the U.S. economy and the Iran arms scandal.

Reflecting the weakness of the dollar, the first London gold market fixing of the year was \$402.40 an ounce, up sharply on its Wednesday close of \$391.00. The metal is a traditional haven for investors when the dollar falls.

The U.S. currency, which had closed at 1.9410 West German marks on Wednesday, plunged to 1.9190 marks in thin early trading Friday on fears about U.S. economic performance in 1987. The dollar had been just above two marks in mid-December.

Money markets were closed Thursday for the New Year's Holiday and in some countries, including Japan and Switzerland, they remained closed Friday.

Dealers said the severity of the dollar's decline has been accentuated by the thinness of the traditionally slow New Year trading period.

The dollar has fallen by about 35 per cent against Japan's yen and 32 per cent against the mark in the last 15 months.

The U.S. unit hit an all-time low against the mark of 1.7062 on Jan. 3, 1980, during the Carter administration's Iran hostages crisis.

The dollar also opened weak against the French franc Friday at 6.3700 francs against a pre-holiday close of 6.4250.

In contrast to the dollar, the British pound started the year on a firm trend at 1.4855 to the dollar after closing at 1.4825 on Wednesday.

Sterling has been buoyed by stronger world oil prices, relatively high British interest rates and recent gains in opinion polls by the ruling Conservative Party, dealers said.

But some uncertainty surrounds sterling's outlook for 1987, which is likely to be an election year, they added.

The latest scandal over Iran helped drag the value of the dollar lower in recent weeks. Investors were concerned about political damage to the Reagan administration brought by the Iran arms sales scandal which has rocked Washington.

Some dealers saw the dollar falling below 1.90 marks next week and Mr. Richard Jeffrey at London brokers Hoare Govett predicted the dollar falling to 1.80 marks by next November.

Such forecasts were reinforced by the latest set of key U.S. economic indicators issued last week which showed a record U.S. trade deficit of \$19.22 billion for November, much worse than economists had expected.

The cornerstone of U.S. economic policy since late 1985 has been cutting the trade deficit, which Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker has repeatedly singled out as the key to future expansion, economists said.

Weakness in the dollar drew a year-end warning from Mr. Karl Otto Poehl, president of West Germany's central bank, that a further decline in its value could spark inflation in the U.S.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4900/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3795/3805	Canadian dollars
	1.9195/9205	West German marks
	2.1700/10	Dutch guilders
	1.6090/6100	Swiss francs
	39.95/40.00	Belgian francs
	6.3625/75	French francs
	1336/1338	Italian lire
	158.30/45	Japanese yen
	6.7400/50	Swedish crowns
	13300/50	Norwegian crowns
	13300/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	401.89/402.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed but with a late rally making for a firmer bias after the unexpected higher opening on Wall Street, but turnover was seasonally small, dealers said.

The FTSE 100 share index at 1530 GMT Friday was up 0.4 to 1,679.4, having touched a low of 1,674.5 The FT 30 share index at 1530 GMT had risen 3.7 to 1,317.6.

Government bonds met renewed demand, gaining as much as 1-1/2 points in response to sterling's strength, while the advance in the bullion price to \$403.50 an ounce prompted a revival in gold shares.

The weakness of the dollar and Wednesday's 13 point fall on Wall Street forced internationalists down. ICI fell 17p to a low of 1,050 but Friday's unexpected higher opening saw the market leader close at 1,061 for a net loss of 7p. Glaxo finished 7p lower as well at 1,043 after 1,034 while Unilever returned to 2,185 from a low of 2,175.

Dealers said the U.K. consumer boom prompted belated demand for Thorn Emi up 11p at 480 while GEC at 189 and Blue Circle were each 5p higher among leaders.

Rowntree Mackintosh moved up 7p to 410 on revived speculative demand while Pilkington put on 4p to 669 ahead of its defence document, due Monday, against the bid from BTR.

S. Arabia lessens dependence on oil revenue

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of crude oil, has dropped its dependence on oil sale to the lowest ever rate of 55.6 per cent of state revenues in fiscal 1987.

The budget, announced on New Year's Eve, projected expenditure of 170 billion riyals (\$45.33 billion) and revenues of 117.28 billion riyals (\$31.27 billion).

Oil sales, however, will contribute only 65.1 billion riyals (\$17.39 billion) to the kingdom's revenues.

The royal decree ended a 9-month hiatus in which the kingdom twice acknowledged it could not calculate income because of the instability of the world oil market.

The budget was announced only hours before an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreement on oil production cuts was due to take hold New Year's day.

Under the agreement, which Saudi Arabia campaigned for in an effort to shore up oil prices, the kingdom's production quota was slashed to 4.13 million barrels a day.

In 1980, the kingdom's oil revenues were estimated at \$100 billion, or 87.6 per cent of the kingdom's overall income. At the time, Saudi Arabia produced about 11 million barrels a day.

But the kingdom's production policy, then drawn by oil minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, glutted the oil market. Last year the glut prompted a drop in prices to less than \$10 a barrel.

King Fahd ditched Sheikh Yamani and his successor, Sheikh Hisham Nazer, convinced OPEC of a seven per cent production cut to 15.8 million barrels per day. OPEC hopes to push prices up

to \$18 a barrel under the new agreement. Revenues in the new Saudi budget show the kingdom was counting on an output of less than four million barrels per day, on the basis of \$18 a barrel.

Saudi sources close to the finance ministry said the budget was based on exports of 3.1 million barrels per day and 700,000 barrels for domestic consumption.

"This leaves a reserve of more than 320,000 barrels per day to help the kingdom hedge against any fresh instability in oil prices," said the source, who requested anonymity.

King Fahd has appealed to other OPEC nations to abide by the agreement reached last month in Geneva, warning that failing to do so would push the world oil market into further chaos.

In a recent statement in Dhahran, an oil centre in the Eastern Province, King Fahd noted that Saudi Arabia was

capable of producing 15 million barrels per day.

The budget was supposed to be announced in March. But it was delayed, that from now on annual budgets would run from December rather than March.

The new budget is for the Hijra Muslim year of 1407-08. "The budget has a built-in buffer in case of oil market fluctuations, and this shows a new sense of reality," said one oil market analyst, who also refused to be named.

For the first time, the kingdom publicly conceded it would dip into its reserves to meet the projected deficit of 52.72 billion riyals (\$14.05 billion). Its petrodollar reserves are estimated at \$90 billion.

The last budget amounted to 200 billion riyals (\$55 million). Last year the rial was 3.65 to the dollar. Now it stands at 3.75 to the dollar.

Spending cuts were lower than had been anticipated. Analysts

had thought the 181 billion riyals (\$48.2 billion) expenditure would be slashed by at least 25 per cent. Instead it was cut by only six per cent.

The deficit, however, was double the expected figure. The lower percentage contribution of oil sales to revenues reflected the kingdom's vigorous determination to diversify its economy.

The bulk of other income would be provided by government profits from its partial ownership of petrochemical plants and from state oil companies, Petromin and Aramco.

The government also levies a tariff of four per cent or higher on most imports and collects receipts for electricity, communications and issuance of documents and visa. The government also counts on income from invested reserves.

The category least affected by cuts was manpower development which was allotted 23.72 billion riyals (\$6.32 billion), a decrease of

less than one per cent. Defence and security, with the largest allocation of 60.75 billion riyals (\$16.19 billion) was cut only 5.9 per cent.

Health and social development which includes the labour and information ministries, was allocated 11.39 billion riyals (\$2.96 billion).

That marked a cutback of 25 per cent, even though health care is a high Saudi priority.

There have been indications recently that the kingdom is introducing a health insurance plan. Subsidies for items ranging from electricity to food were cut 18.5 per cent to 6.8 billion riyals (\$1.81 billion).

King Fahd, in statements on eve of the budget release, promised that direct subsidies would not be reduced. His message was that his pet would be taken care of, with infrastructure development basically out of the way.

'Africa still needs massive aid'

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The past year saw unprecedented attention focused on Africa's economic problems, but promised international help has yet to arrive, the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa said.

Africa in 1987 still will need massive aid because of trade imbalances, low oil prices, the hangover from a crippling famine and civil war, Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, a U.N. under secretary general and executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, said in his end of year statement.

Many countries will need increased food aid, especially Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia and Sudan.

Mr. Adedeji, a Nigerian, said 1986 was a "year of increased international solidarity with Africa." He cited the special U.N. General Assembly session held in May to discuss Africa's economic plight.

"In spite of the unique expressions of 'international solidarity with Africa' in 1986, there is as yet little evidence of concrete international measures in direct response to the commitments entered into," he said.

"The ongoing process of wide-ranging initiative at policy reforms and adjustments in several African countries is yet to be matched by similar positive responses on the part of the development partners, he added.

"The international community must see 1987 as the year of great challenge and opportunity, for them to match their expressed concerns about Africa's economic recovery with concrete deeds," he noted.

Mr. Adedeji said Africa in 1986 went from "a uniformly disastrous situation to one that is distinctly marginally better."

"This year, unlike in previous years, a large number of African countries — about thirty in all — have achieved an overall growth rate in output of three per cent," he said.

He also noted increased food production and record harvests in many parts of Africa.

"For the first time in more than a decade and a half, agricultural output in 1986 grew by more than three per cent — a figure that is slightly more than the population growth rate," Mr. Adedeji said.

For some countries the real problem last year was how to dispose of huge surpluses, he said.

On the negative side, Mr. Adedeji said, Africa's export trade was the worst since the great depression.

He said export earnings fell from \$60.6 billion in 1985 to \$44.3 billion last year.

"The year 1986 may well go down in the annals of history as the worst ever for developing Africa's external sector," he added.

"As if to make matters worse, the U.S. Congress has recently taken the decision not to increase aid to Africa in 1987 but to reduce it by almost 40 per cent," Mr. Adedeji said.

"All these at a time when the African countries are, more than ever before, in dire need of expanded development assistance."

French labour unrest hardens

PARIS (R) — The French government and striking railwaymen hardened their positions Friday as a dispute which has crippled the country's rail network and flung a major challenge to the rightist government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

Striking train drivers blocked the rail tracks and occupied signal boxes in the capital and elsewhere. Riot police were called in by the state-owned SNCF railway authority to clear lines in Paris, as well as at Nancy in the east, Marseille on the south coast and some other stations.

The labour unrest, which has also brought stoppages in French ports and on the Paris metro (underground), threatened to spread.

The Communist-led CGT union called for meetings of workers in the public sector and nationalised industry on Monday in order to decide on future action.

Concern over the 16-day-old rail dispute and fears of wider strike action hit the Paris bourse, sending share prices down sharply across the board.

At the Gare de Lyon in Paris, riot police lined the platform to allow a high-speed TGV train to set off for the southern city of Lyon.

So far there have been no violent incidents, but militant railwaymen remain barricaded in signal boxes in Paris.

Shortly before a meeting of the strikers' national coordination committee to discuss strategy, Transport Minister Pierre Méhaignerie told French television that if the strike continued it was more for political reasons.

He held out hopes for further talks on working conditions but said: "There is no possibility of negotiations on pay."

Railwaymen in many areas voted overwhelmingly Thursday

to continue the stoppage despite the scrapping of a controversial new pay survey, which had been rejected by the union.

A surprise meeting Thursday between Socialist President Francois Mitterrand and a strikers' delegation drew criticism from Chirac's rightist RPR party and highlighted the tensions in the power-sharing arrangement between the two leaders.

"This is an affair which concerns only the government and this intervention risks increasing the difficulties of the situation," said RPR General Secretary Jacques Toubon.

Mr. Chirac has so far tried to remain aloof in the dispute, with no member of the government agreeing to meet strikers.

An independent government-appointed mediator decided on Wednesday to scrap the controversial new pay scale, which stressed merit rather than seniority in promotions.

Nigeria unveils cautious budge

LAGOS (R) — Caution dictated by uncertainty over future oil prices characterised Nigeria's 1987 budget which was unveiled by the military government Thursday.

The 45-page document presented by President Ibrahim Babangida in a nationwide broadcast projected total revenue for the coming year at only 17.8 billion naira, worth about \$5.4 billion at the present exchange rate.

That total, compared with 15 billion naira last year, means economic planners pitched average prices for Nigeria's crude oil in the coming 12 months at about \$13 per barrel, well below current rates and OPEC's \$18 target.

"They have sensibly been very cautious about oil prices," one Western diplomat commented, recalling that the 1986 budget was

quickly outdated when oil prices tumbled.

Nigeria is an official announcement just prior to the new year confirmed the nation's commitment to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC's) recently-agreed accord to sell crude oil at higher prices.

The statement said all netback deals, in which the price of crude oil is based on the spot prices of refined oil products, would be phased out by February in line with OPEC's Geneva accord.

Nigeria's Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman is the president of OPEC.

General Babangida's speech did not give a detailed breakdown of the budget's figures, which are expected to be furnished by Finance Minister Chu Okongwu this week.

But he confirmed the acute difficulties faced last year when oil, which accounts for about 90 per cent of Nigeria's export earnings, dropped to below \$10 a barrel.

One negative consequence of an estimated balance of payment deficit of 760 million naira in 1986 on the current account, compounded with a \$1.1 billion surplus in 1985, he said.

He said Nigeria would continue to limit repayments on its debt to 30 per cent of foreign earnings. Pointing to further proof of government's caution, he noted that 4.5 billion naira (billion) of revenue was earmarked as a contingency cushion in oil prices collapse again.

General Babangida, who so power 16 months ago, told his million people that although economic problems remained, radical recovery program launched last year was still producing results.

ITT, French firm form second largest telecommunications giant

PARIS (R) — ITT of the United States and France's state-owned Compagnie Generale d'Electricite (CGE) formally merged their telecommunications interests last week to form the world's second largest telecommunications giant.

The new Franco-American venture is second in the business only to the mammoth U.S. ATT company, which is itself involved in a battle to take over France's second largest telecommunications firm.

ITT and CGE presidents Rand Araskog and Pierre Suard set the seal on the joint venture by signing in Brussels an agreement to set up Telecommunications N.V. (TCNV), a grouping of worldwide interests they described as second only in size to those of ATT.

The creation of TCNV ended six months of thorny negotiations to merge scores of ITT telecommunications units across the globe with CGE subsidiary Alcatel, which controls 84 per

cent of the French market.

But French hopes of bringing several European partners into the deal have not so far been fulfilled. An 11th-hour attempt to sell Spanish firm Telefonos a \$300 million stake in the business failed only hours before the signing.

CGE, which has a 55.6 per cent controlling stake in the new venture, refused to relinquish enough decision-making power to persuade the Spaniards to invest, Telefonos said.

Under the agreement, CGE will have to hand ITT more than half of the \$902 million cash to be paid to the U.S. firm for putting its telecommunications assets into TCNV.

ITT has a 37 per cent stake in the venture. Belgian holding company Societe Generale de Belgique paid \$20 million for a 5.7 per cent stake and France's state-owned Bank Credit Lyonnais \$73 million for 1.7 per cent in the company.

Financial analysts said CGE failure to rally other Euro firms to the deal is expected to incur additional costs to re-loss-making ITT subsidiaries pay for further research on a new system 12 public telecommunication equipment.

But CGE officials say an Amsterdam-based comp which will have a start-up of about 150,000 and operates 75 countries, will put the French in a strong position to fight a bigger slice of the increasingly competitive telecommunications market.

The venture has set the stat an international takeover for France's second largest telephone switching company Generale de Construc.

Both Washington and B have been putting pressure on French government to sell a 20 per cent share in the company leading contenders ATT of United States and Germany's Siemens A.G.

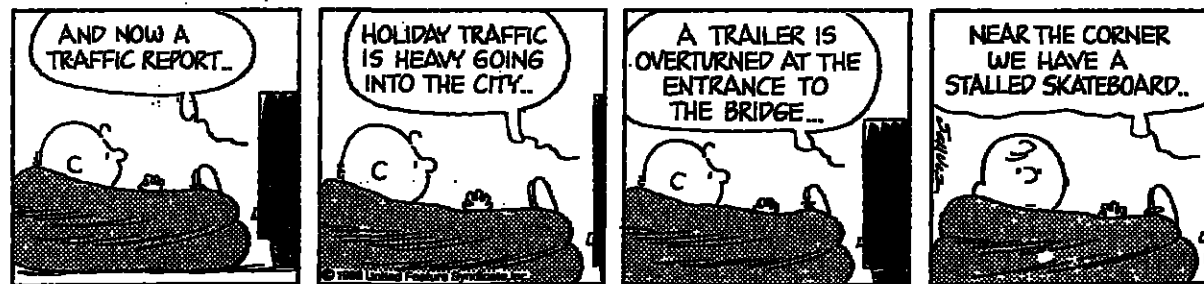
THE Daily Crossword by Fran Ragus

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Evince	11 Lovers
5 Curved sword	12 Sign
10 Lily plant	13 Facilitate
14 Pueblo Indian	15 Of life
15 Irregularly notched	21 Eng. festival
16 Vasco da —	22 Disorders
17 Help in wrongdoing	23 Parts of galaxies
18 Murderer symbol	24 Dedicate
20 Short-tailed animals	25 Blind strip
22 A Caesare	27 Poi source
23 Costume	30 Barbs
26 Helianth porch	31 Male relative
28 Actor Chad	32 Listed
29 Kind of pass	33 River boats
30 FFI city	34 Gr. theaters
34 Indian girl	35 Appends
35 "— of Consent"	40 Best or George
36 Transportation in an old song	45 Talked back
41 March	46 To wit
42 Lizard	
43 Bates or Young	
44 Becomes very angry	

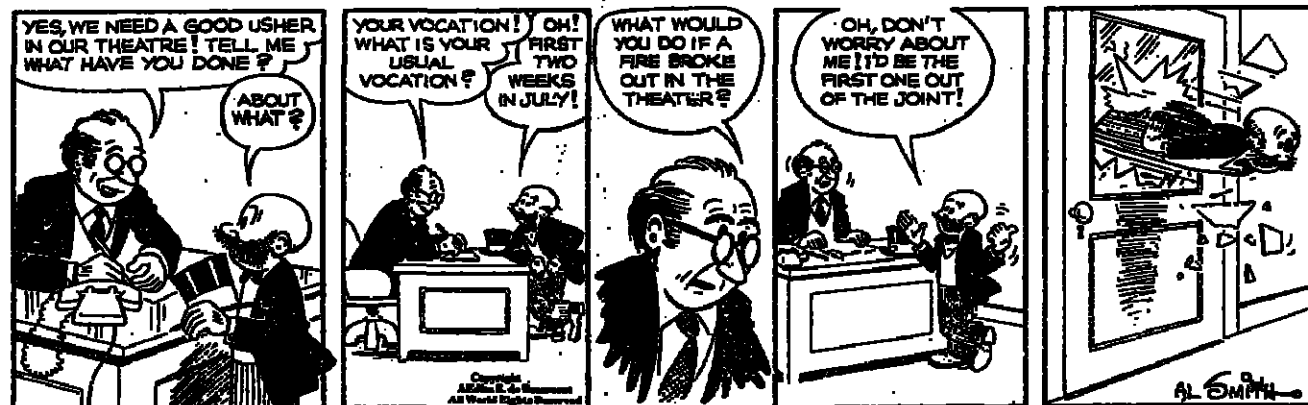
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

RAISE ASHES SILENCE	47 Deacons	56 Existed
ALIVE CHALK GILIA	48 Rubbish	57 Bank abbr.
ALIVE HOLLYHOLLY	49 War moments	58 Wonder
REITERERS OTTLES	50 Coastal flyer	59 Billy
AMENS MALL	51 Head	60 Williams
ARGADE DISTAFFS	52 Caribair air	61 Amperand
ROUTES PANTS ARE		
ALIVE BRIDES ARIE		
LEIGH BRAND BIERIE		
REBAYERS CATERIE		
LAITH PLAYER		
AVAIL REPERFIED		
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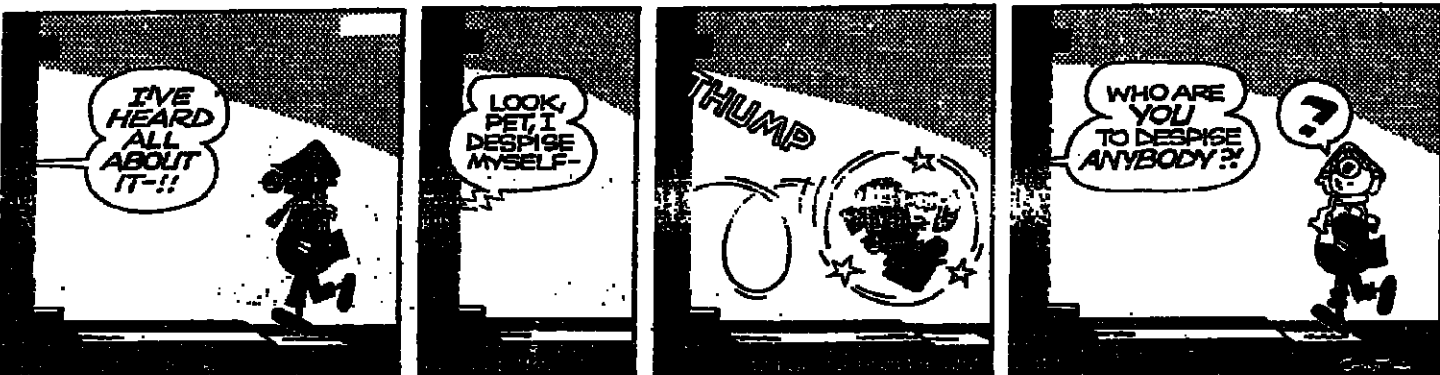
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

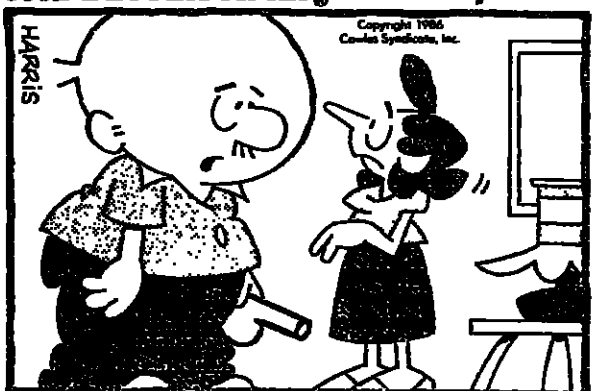


Andy Capp



DOWN	ACROSS
1 — No Na	47 Deacons
2 Fireplace	48 Rubbish
3 Shelf	49 War moments
4 Post's word	50 Coastal flyer
5 Mysterly	51 Head
6 Stem	52 Caribair air

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RYVEN
WHISS
TURAL
SCYTIK

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE

What the guy who just pretended he was a gangster must have been — A "FALSE HOOD"

Students vow to continue protests despite Chinese media offensive

PEKING (R) — Peking University students, who held two illegal demonstrations in the last two days, said Friday the protests were not over.

But they said they fully backed the reforms of the Communist Party leadership and Socialism.

Several new illegal posters appeared Friday in the traditional spot near the caisson and were read by dozens of students who enthusiastically discussed the pros and cons of the demonstrations.

Both were held in Peking's historic Tiananmen Square, one in the morning and the second early Friday to win the release of students detained in the morning.

The protests were staged in defiance of regulations passed last month banning marches in the square.

Early Friday morning the government announced that all students detained had been freed "after being educated by Public Security Bureau departments."

upwards, our eyes are sensitive, we had just one reason to arrange the demonstrations—to stimulate the reformers among the leadership," it said.

Another poster, signed by "patriotic and innocent, expose the truth," strongly attacked the official Peking Daily and Peking Radio for what it said were false reports of the marches.

"We do not oppose Socialism. The university's students should sue the two for their distortion," it said.

The Peking Daily said Friday: "Some anti-social elements demanding Western so-called freedom and democracy were using disruptive methods, which were bad for the reforms and for national construction."

One student said demonstrations were the only way open to them to express their views.

The official media returned to the offensive Friday against the

protests. The newspaper accused a "handful of anti-Socialist elements" of leading the students.

In its main news bulletin, state television interviewed a school principal, farmers, and electronic engineer and students. All said the students should return to their studies and demonstrations damaged national stability.

Two of those interviewed said they had told their children studying at Peking University not to take part.

Asked if the government was acting leniently towards the students by not arresting them for taking part in an illegal march, the girl student said it was too early to say.

"Of course we are afraid. The government has so many ways to settle its account with us, in job allocation for example. It may go down in our file. But there were many students yesterday. I hope they will not be able to punish so many."

Extremists kill jail warden in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Prisoners hacked a warden to death after security forces foiled an escape attempt at a prison in Punjab (PTI) reported Friday.

PTI said the warden was murdered Friday morning at Nabah jail in Patiala district, where several prisoners were wounded by gunfire from security forces Thursday night.

Meanwhile, suspected terrorist Roshan Lal Bagrai escaped from

outside a Delhi cinema, PTI said.

The Punjab authorities have put security forces on special alert after three electricity utility workers were killed in continuing violence triggered by the Sikh campaign for an independent state.

Two were killed on Wednesday night in an ambush at Gurdaspur, near the industrial city of Batala. A third worker was shot dead elsewhere in the region Thursday.

Kampuchians hit Thai military plane; pilot dies

BANGKOK (R) — A Thai military plane crash-landed after being hit by Kampuchean anti-aircraft fire Friday, killing the pilot and seriously injuring a crew member, a Thai army spokesman said.

The twin-seat L-19 light observation plane was attacked by "opposition forces" during a routine surveillance flight in Thai airspace near the Kampuchean border about 250 kilometres east of Bangkok, Maj.-Gen. Nareudol Dechpradith said.

The pilot crash-landed the plane at a nearby Thai army landing strip, but only his back seat observer survived.

S. Africa begins new year with fresh burst of violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's new year began violently with three blacks burned to death in Soweto on Thursday and one death and at least 11 people injured at packed holiday resorts where black crowds went on the rampage, authorities said Friday.

The government's bureau for information said a black man and woman were set on fire by about 20 people it described as "black radicals" in the Emdeni district of Soweto.

Another woman was burned to death by about 90 blacks in the strife-torn white city area of Soweto, a sprawling community for two million people just outside Johannesburg, the bureau said.

Police found another black man with burns to the upper body and head in the Eastern Cape township of Kwanobuhle, it said.

"Necklacing"—killing a person by putting a petrol-filled tyre around the neck—has become common in South Africa's townships during the past three years of political violence which has claimed more than 2,200 lives.

Radicals have frequently used the method to kill blacks considered to be collaborators with the government.

A member of the security forces was badly wounded in Alexandria township when he was shot by a group of blacks. The township, sandwiched between wealthy Johannesburg suburbs, is one of the country's most militant. It was the scene of bloody unrest last February in which more than 20 people died.

The bureau for information has become the government's mouthpiece on unrest since President P.W. Botha declared a national state of emergency last June to try to restore calm.

Independent reporting of township strife has been curtailed by sweeping emergency media restrictions.

Residents of popular Indian Ocean resorts along the Natal coast were counting the cost on Friday after black crowds ran riot on New Year's Day.

Police had stepped up patrols and used helicopters to try to prevent a recurrence of racial violence at Natal beaches over Christmas.

A black crowd went on the rampage at Durban beach on Thursday.

Police moved in with teargas after the crowd began looting a nearby restaurant. The blacks hurled stones at the police who replied with birdshot, injuring nine people, police said.

Black passengers left a trail of violence after their train was delayed at a signal at Winkelspruit, some 30 kilometres south of Durban. Impatient passengers got off the train and began stoning it, damaging 11 coaches.

A group of blacks ran to a camp site reserved for Indians and stabbed a youth to death, the police said.

Church group proposes talks with Marxists

DETROIT (R) — The World Council of Churches (WCC) has proposed a revival of its Christian-Marxist dialogue programme that was discontinued two decades ago, a council official said.

The initiative by the WCC, which includes more than 300 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican Churches with over 400 million members, will go before the council's Executive Committee later this month.

The Reverend Wesley Ariarajah, a Methodist minister from Sri Lanka who heads the WCC's unit for "dialogue with people of living faiths," said the times were right for reviving formal international Christian-Marxist talks because of developments in Eastern Europe and several nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Specifically, he pointed to a softening of attitudes toward Christian churches by Communist authorities in East Germany, Hungary and Cuba.

He also cited the situation of churches in Zimbabwe and Nicaragua, where Marxist-oriented government leaders have Christian roots while often being at odds with some church authorities.

He said other nations where promotion of dialogue with Marxists could be considered included the Philippines, Ethiopia, Namibia (South West Africa), India, Korea, Malaysia and the whole Latin American continent.

The clergyman said the initiative, if carried out, was bound to be attacked by conservative churchmen who accuse the WCC of being silent on Communist persecution of Christians.

Such a programme had potential dangers for Marxists as well as Christians because Communist representatives who took part in a dialogue could risk condemnation as "revisionists" by hardline colleagues, he added.

New Year starts with appeals for peace, cooperation

NEW YORK (AP) — As the New Year began, appeals from world leaders for peace and cooperation were tempered with dire warnings of strife and famine.

In her New Year speech Thursday, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland urged an end to the arms race.

"The arms race is the biggest dilemma of our time, based on distrust and struggle for power and influence, and it takes place at enormous costs. Arms stocks increase not only in East and West, but also in the Third World," she said.

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky criticised the superpowers in his New Year's address for "exercising influence in other countries," in an apparent allusion to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the U.S. campaign against Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan both vowed on New Year's Eve to work to reduce the threat of nuclear war.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar set the agenda for 1987 by proclaiming it the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

He said the problem threatens everyone and appealed to governments, international financial bodies and the private sector to join in giving "the necessary priority" to sheltering the homeless.

60 bodies recovered from burned-out floors of Puerto Rican luxury hotel

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Workers searching the burned-out lower floors of a luxury beachfront hotel found charred bodies of 60 people, but officials said more bodies likely were hidden by debris and that the toll could reach 100.

More than 100 others were injured in Wednesday's blaze at the 20-story Dupont Plaza Hotel. Its cause was not determined immediately, but Gov. Rafael Hernandez Colon said Thursday an investigation led by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was focusing on arson because of recent labour unrest at the hotel.

Union officials angrily rejected any suggestion of a link between the fire and the contract dispute and offered a \$15,000 reward for information about the fire's cause.

Asked about reports that remnants of three incendiary devices were found in the hotel, Justice Secretary Hector Rivera Cruz was quoted Friday as saying, "I'm not denying that."

"We have some theory of the (cause of the) blast that cannot be released specifically at this moment," the New York Daily News quoted Mr. Rivera Cruz as saying.

Hotel guests told news agencies that there had been bomb threats at the hotel hours before the fire.

Officials said 60 bodies, most charred beyond recognition, were found by the time the search was suspended late Thursday. Authorities said corpses were being taken to the San Juan Medical Centre.

Forensic experts said they expected to find more bodies Friday as they begin lifting debris from the floor of the casino.

"Up to now what we have done is just pick up the bodies on the surface," said Edwin Medina of

the medical centre's Forensic Medical Institute.

A team of three forensic pathologists from the U.S. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology arrived in the U.S. commonwealth Thursday to help with the investigation.

Officials did not release a casualty list. The hotel's registration desk and records were damaged by the fire, and law enforcement officials kept everyone but rescue workers out of the hotel Thursday.

Most of the 109 people hospitalised were released after being treated for smoke inhalation and minor injuries, said Dr. Carlos Gomez, chief of staff at the medical centre.

But Danny Velez, a spokesman for Hernandez Colon, said Thursday that 18 people remained hospitalised in critical condition.

The fire broke out at about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, 10 minutes after teamsters members employed at the hotel ended a meeting in a hotel conference room where they rejected management's contract offer. The union, which represents about 250 of the hotel's 450 employees, had said it would strike at midnight if a settlement were not reached.

San Juan Mayor Baltazar Corrada Del Rio said the fire started either in the casino on the mezzanine floor or in the ballroom or boiler room on the ground floor directly below the casino.

There were explosions, he said, but it could not immediately be determined if the explosions caused the fire or vice versa.

Other small fires had broken out at the hotel in recent days as the labour trouble dragged on.

Hernandez Colon said the Dupont Plaza and many other Puerto Rican hotels do not have fire sprinkler systems. He said he

would seek regulations making them mandatory in all hotels.

Some of those who escaped said no warning siren sounded when the fire broke out. They said emergency instructions were called through bullhorns in Spanish, but most of the guests were English-speakers from the U.S. mainland.

Many of the survivors were moved to nearby hotels or private residences. The Dupont Plaza said it would pay for their flights home and for food and lodging through Friday. It also gave \$100 to each family to buy necessities.

The 423-room hotel, formerly part of the Sheraton chain and now owned by Hotel Systems International of Anaheim, California, was booked to capacity with 800 guests, said hotel spokesman Rissic Licha.

Hernandez Colon said arson was suspected because the union dispute had become very tense, "different threats had been made" and word was that "something was going to happen and something did happen very soon."

He said authorities "don't believe that political terrorism is involved in this matter at all. If there is a criminal responsibility, it will be related to the union problem."

Hotel representatives noted that one union negotiator was Jorge Farinacci, linked by the FBI to the militant Puerto Rican independence group called the Macheteros.

Farinacci criticised what he called "the campaign against the union" as "irresponsible."

"We have heard that some of our workers may be among the dead. To say that the union would do that is to say that the union is crazy," Farinacci told the Associated Press.

Rebels reject Kabul's call for ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Communist leader Najibullah's most ambitious appeal for an end to Afghanistan's eight-year-old guerrilla war has been dismissed out of hand by the Western-backed rebels.

In a speech made public Thursday night, Najibullah called for open contacts with the guerrillas and the formation of a coalition government and announced a temporary ceasefire from Jan. 15.

The official Kabul Radio quoted him as saying "opposition" leaders could take part in elections to a National Assembly and make suggestions for a new constitution now being drawn up.

He specifically included monarchists and members of former governments in his call for reconciliation, made to the policy-making Central Committee of his ruling Communist Party.

Najibullah added, however, that national reconciliation was aimed at developing the "gains of the revolution," a reference to the Communist takeover of April 1978, and at strengthening Afghanistan's ties with the Kremlin.

The U.S. State Department said in Washington it did not have any immediate comment on the announcement.

But a spokesman for the Mujahideen rebels in the north-west Pakistani city of Peshawar dismissed the proposals as a fraud and said Najibullah could not be trusted.

"The Mujahideen reject it,"

Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, current spokesman for the main alliance of seven Pakistan-based guerrilla groups, told reporters.

A spokesman for the Hezb-I-Islami guerrilla group of Maulvi Yunis Khan said accepting the ceasefire would amount to recognising the Kabul government, which is backed by a Soviet military force estimated by Western experts at some 115,000.

The rebels have responded to Najibullah's recent call for "national reconciliation" by reiterating their refusal to share any government with Communists and demands for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The ceasefire announcement followed several conciliatory gestures by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Afghanistan, and a burst of diplomatic activity.

It came six days after the seventh anniversary of the Soviet intervention and some three weeks after Najibullah led a top-level delegation to Moscow, where he announced plans to form a government of "national unity."

The former secret police chief told the Central Committee plenum, which Western diplomats said was believed held on Tuesday, that a special commission would be set up to provide work and shelter for returning refugees.

Some five million Afghans have fled the fighting, some three million of them to neighbouring Pakistan.

He said it would not be possible to implement the ceasefire everywhere at once, and warned that if the rebels continued

shooting, they would be met with an appropriate response.

It would be followed by an amnesty and guarantee of non-prosecution for former political activity.

He said the Kabul authorities were currently negotiating with 417 "armed bands" and called for contacts with prominent figures of the former government and Islamic parties.

"At the present stage, the creation of a national unity government with the participation of these groups is possible," he was quoted as saying.

And he told his government's opponents: "To those who have not realised the need for dialogue with us yet, I want to repeat the proverb: Do not cut off the hand extended to you."

Meanwhile rebel sources claimed Thursday guerrillas in Afghanistan shot down 20 Soviet and Afghan government aircraft in 1986.

Another 36 aircraft and helicopters were destroyed on the ground during the year, according to resistance sources in Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan about 160 kilometres north west of Islamabad.

Of the 206 aircraft shot down, 19 pilots parachuted to safety, while 48 Soviet pilots and 139 Afghan pilots were killed, the sources said.

SAM-7 surface-to-air missiles, British-made Blowpipe missiles and long-range field and other anti-aircraft guns were used to down the aircraft, the Mujahideen guerrilla sources said.



Elton John to undergo surgery

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Rock singer Elton John will undergo throat surgery next week and has cancelled all 1987 performances, his publicist said Friday. The singer had throat problems on his recent tour of Australia. Close friend and promoter Patti Mostyn said the 39-year-old singer will check into a private hospital in Sydney on Monday for "exploratory" surgery. She told the Associated Press that John, who has been plagued by throat problems for the past 15 months, will be hospitalised for most of the week and has been told he won't be able to speak for a few days. John, relaxing in Western Australia after a month-long tour down under, told reporters: "I am just very relieved that something positive is being done at last." Mostyn said John had seen four specialists in the past but that his throat problem was never diagnosed.

16-year-old undergoes abortion after court battle

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — A teen-ager in her 19th week of pregnancy underwent an abortion after Alberta's court of appeals threw out an injunction obtained by her Mormon parents. "That was probably the hardest thing I'll ever have to do but I'm glad I did it, and I hope it will make things easier for other teen-agers who have the same problem," the 16-year-old girl from Medicine Hat, Alberta, said in a telephone interview Friday. She said she underwent the abortion at Calgary General Hospital. A court order blocked the use of the girl's name because of her age. Three members of the Alberta court of appeal deliberated for about an hour before deciding the girl was mentally capable of making the decision to have an abortion.

Frenchman dies after New Year mugging in New York

NEW YORK (R) — A 71-year-old French tourist died after being mugged ten minutes after seeing in the New Year in Times Square, police said. They said two or three men knocked Jean Case, of Toulouse, to the ground a few blocks from the traditional centre of New Year revelry in New York before fleeing with his wallet. Case later died in hospital. About 300,000 people gathered in Times Square and 34 arrests were made in the area on charges including robbery, criminal weapons possession and assault.

Dutch premier catches thief

ROTTERDAM (R) — Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers spent New Year's Eve chasing thieves through the streets of his port city after they broke into his wife's car to steal a radio, a police spokesman said. It was the second time during the year that Lubbers had been involved in such an incident. Police said neighbours told Lubbers that two people who had broken into the car were nearby. The prime minister and his son jumped into the car and chased the man and woman, who escaped onto a tram. The fugitives stepped off shortly afterwards and Lubbers, his son, and a conductor held the man in a team shelter until the police came. The woman got away. On Oct. 13, Lubbers and his family assisted the police in a similar incident.

Hirohito greets well-wishers

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Emperor Hirohito offered New Year's greetings to crowds of well-wishers in one of two public appearances he makes at the Imperial Palace each year. Some 70,000 people streamed in for five separate appearances by the emperor and members of his immediate family, police said. Empress Nagako appeared only twice, looking frail and leaning on the arm of an aide. Thousands of paper red-and-white Japanese flags fluttered together as the crowds waved and cheered "Tenno Banzai" (long live the emperor). The 85-year-old emperor looked in good health strong as he stepped on to the palace balcony and waved at the crowd from behind bullet-proof glass. "Happy New Year. It is wonderful to see you all looking so well. I hope this year will also be good," Hirohito said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND ORAN SEARAT
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THE MISSING KING

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ A 9 8
♣ 7 5

WEST EAST
♠ 7 4 3 2
♥ Q J 10 5 2
♦ K J 5
♣ 10 4 3 2

♠ K Q J 9 8 2 ♠ A 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 7 6 4 3
♥ A 4
♦ Q 7 6
♣ 10 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1-♠ 2-♠ 3-♠ 4-♠

4-♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠